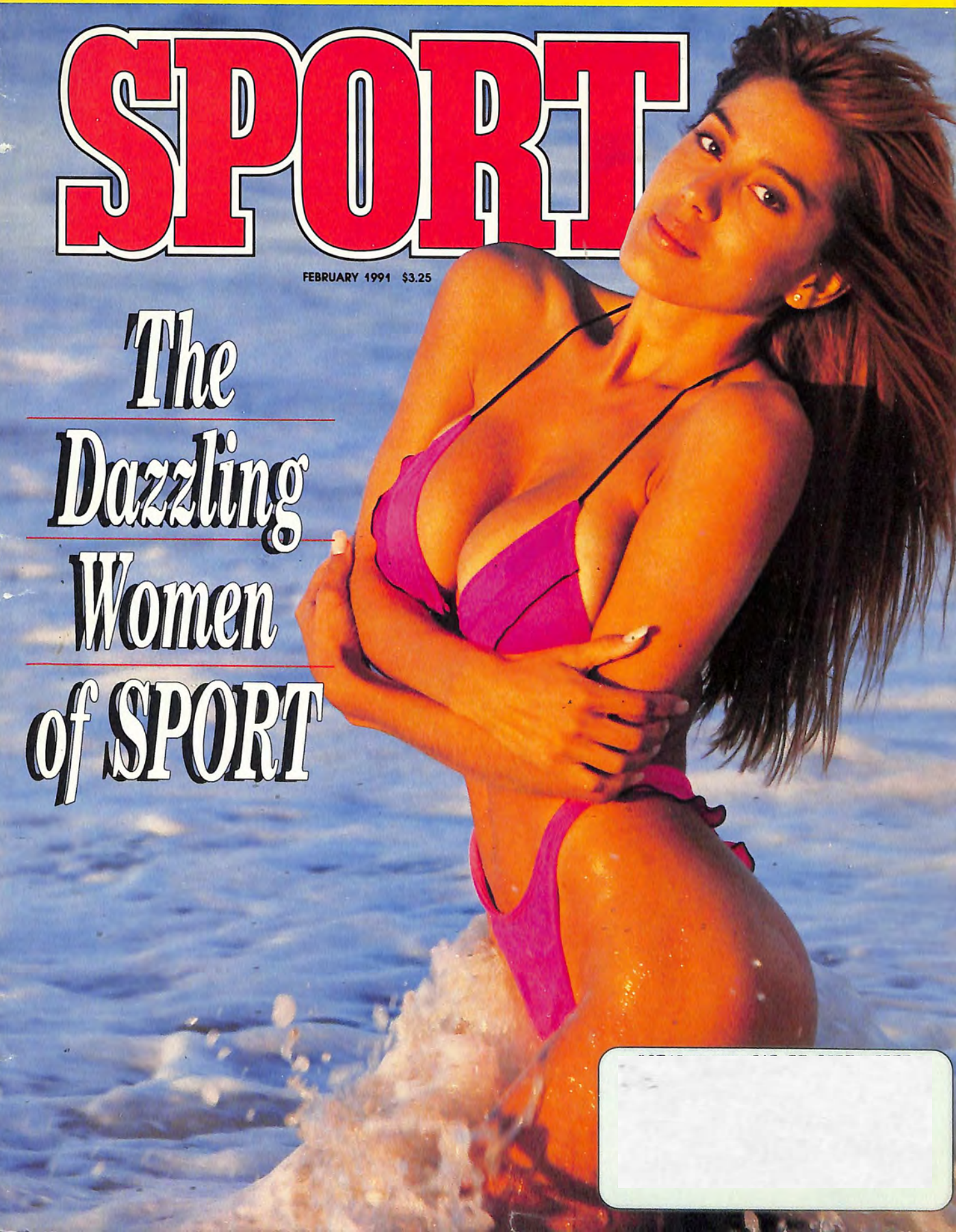
HOT SWIMSUIT ISSUE!

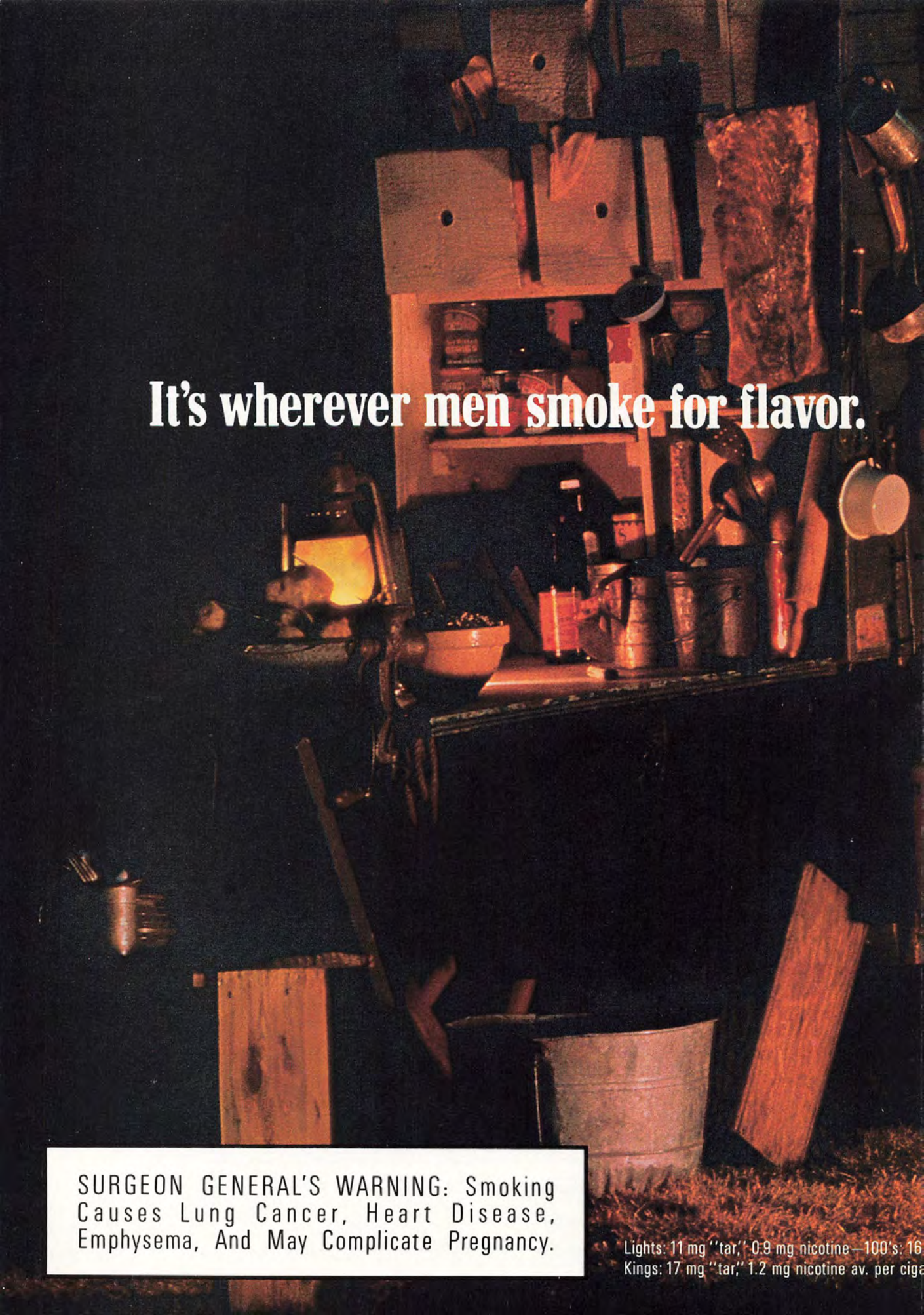
SPORT

FEBRUARY 1991 $3.25



The Dazzling Women of SPORT

mg "tar," 1.2 mg nicotine—
rette by FTC method.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Lights: 11 mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine—100's: 16
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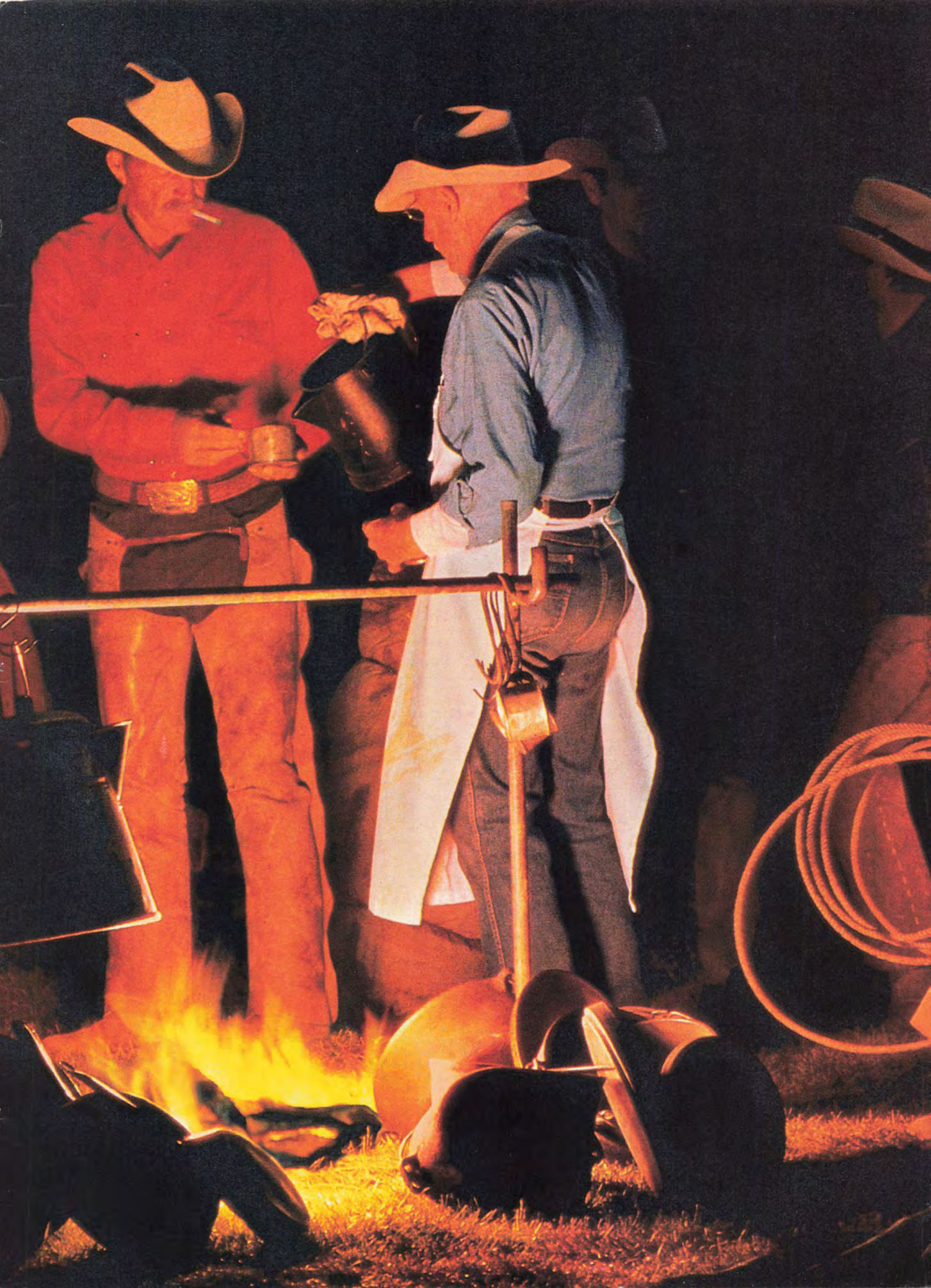

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FILTER CIGARETTES
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Lights: Menthol 10 mg "tar," 0.8 mg nicotine—100's & Kings: 11 mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine—100's Soft & Menthol Kings: 16 mg "tar," 1.2 mg nicotine—100's Box & Kings: 17 mg "tar," 1.2 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.

FIRST PITCH

SWIMSUIT SECRETS

GERALD FORSTER

What's it take to produce the annual SPORT swimsuit spectacular? Great looking models, of course—the kind who know how to bring out the best in the latest suits. And, obviously, a talented photographer with a sharp eye and a keen aesthetic sense. A first-rate crew too.

We at SPORT had all of that for this newest edition of "The Dazzling Women of SPORT." You can see for yourself by flipping over to page 44 and onward.

EDGAR MILLA

But before you do—if you can hang on *just a second*—let me mention one more element that helped make this swimsuit issue the most appealing ever. Call it "international cooperation." The shots you're about to enjoy represent the eager efforts of a lot of good people on both sides of the United States/Mexico border. The results speak for themselves.

You see, this time SPORT took its act to the sun and sands of southern Mexico—to the resorts of Acapulco and Ixtapa, to be precise, on the coast of one of that country's most beautiful states, Guerrero. Why'd we do it? Again, the shots speak for themselves. Just what it is about the Mexican coast that adds so much to the sensuous beauty of the female form is something only the poets can tell you. The rest of us can enjoy the photographs.

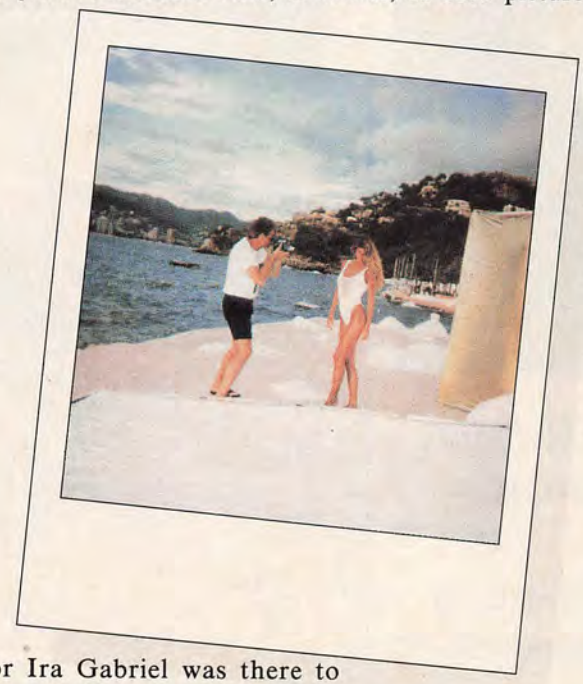
So when you delve into this issue's swimsuit layout, you're entering into the world of Mexico's famous hospitality. It started at the beginning, with Mexicana Airlines providing the models and crew with the international flights. And it continued with the accommodations at the famous Westin Hotel and Resorts of Las Brisas in Acapulco and the Camino Real up the coast in Ixtapa. Both of these luxurious hotels are so beautiful that we used them as locations for many of the shots. We're talking Robin Leach quality here; none of us are rich or famous, but we were treated as though we were.

As gringos in Mexico, we naturally needed some logistical help, and that was provided to the max by both the Mexican government and the state government of Guerrero, under Governor Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu. Particularly helpful were Eduardo Amezcua of the federal tourism secretary's office (known as Sectur) and Susana Valcarcel Sabah of the

EDGAR MILLA

state's tourism development office (Guerrero Sefotur). They were right with us every step of the way.

From the north side of the border, a cast of thousands (or thereabouts) teamed up to bring you "The Dazzling Women of SPORT." Even a photographer as talented as Germany's Gerald Forster needs a super crew, and ours was unparalleled. Stylist Sandra Soich created the look, Jasmine (just Jasmine) did the make-up, and Edgar Miller provided photo assistance. And, of course, SPORT picture editor Ira Gabriel was there to oversee everything.



A number of companies provided essentials. The film came from the Polaroid Corporation, the sunglasses (a necessity, believe me) from Bausch & Lomb. Special thanks also go to Mike Astorino of Saatchi & Saatchi and to Laura Hinds of Visages.

And while we're at it, a tip of the SPORT cap to the Los Angeles Raiderettes, who provided inspiration and our cover model, Brooke Morales.

A special treat this year is the first-ever SPORT swimsuit video, which you can order by phone (1-800-982-2500). It was shot on location during the photography sessions with state-of-the-art Arriflex camera and lighting equipment. We spared no expense in putting this sizzling video together. A Continental helicopter belly mount, Arriflex 16sr underwater camera housing, a glidecam and the Igeba fog machine were all used to bring the SPORT girls to live action.

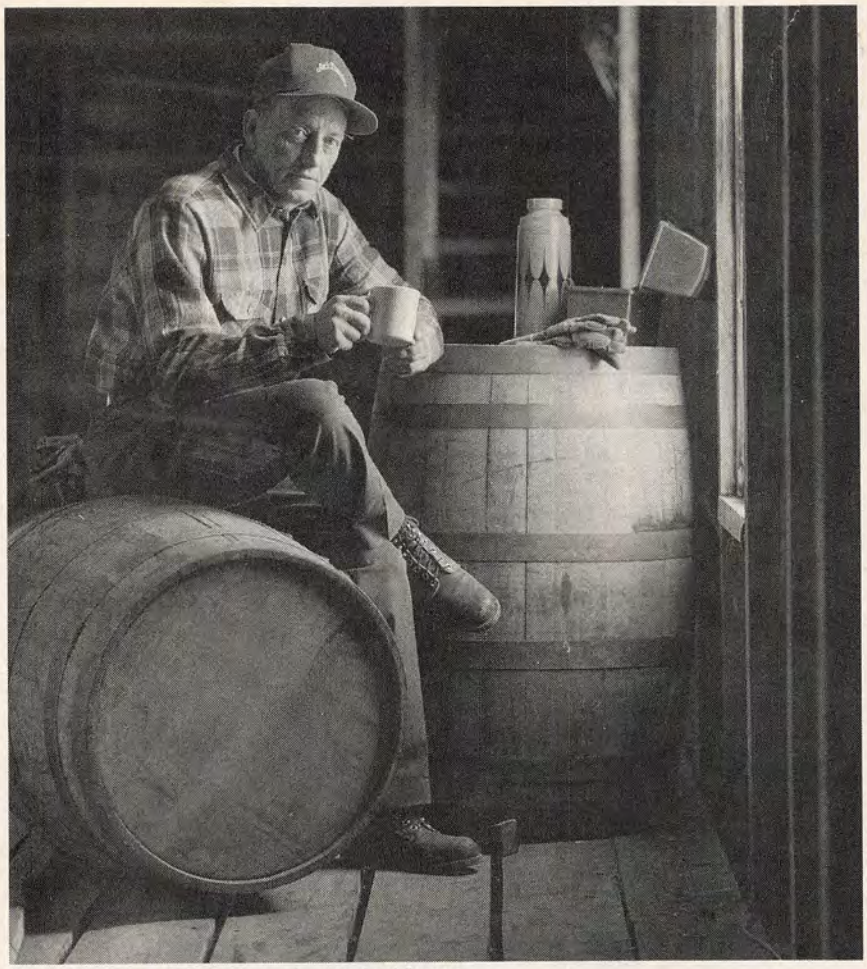
IRA GABRIEL

The video crew: Kevin McNeely, Don Springer, Dave Basienski, Dean Lyras, Seth Cirker, Mike Lookinland, Earl Stein, Peter Davidian, Adan Colunga, Ron Benson, Rose Heon, Chris Ishii, Beau Franklin and Kristin Ratcliff. The special host for the swimsuit video was none other than Ed Marinaro, whom you know as an actor and former Super Bowl performer for the Minnesota Vikings.

Also, don't miss the ESPN airing of the swimsuit video. The times are: January 1 at 10:30 p.m. (EST) and 7:30 p.m. (PST), and also January 6, 5 p.m. (EST) and 2 p.m. (PST).

Interested in purchasing any of the swimsuits you'll be seeing when we let you stop reading this introduction and get on to the real thing? Here are the numbers you can call for information on obtaining the suits from each manufacturer: Ritchie (305) 681-0627; Gideon Oberson (212) 869-3375; Randolph Duke (212) 302-5890; Guess? (212) 764-3300; Anne Klein (212) 221-7880; Keiko (212) 982-1682; J. Crew (212) 886-2500; Body Glove (212) 944-6633; Gloria del Rio (212) 764-5062; Ken Done (212) 967-3840; Shark Bite (305) 266-8611; Liza Bruce (212) 223-3223; Ann Cole (212) 398-9696; Sessa (800) 289-7946; Shan (514) 687-7101; California Bodyguard, on the cover, (213) 822-7044.

—Kelly Garrett, Editor



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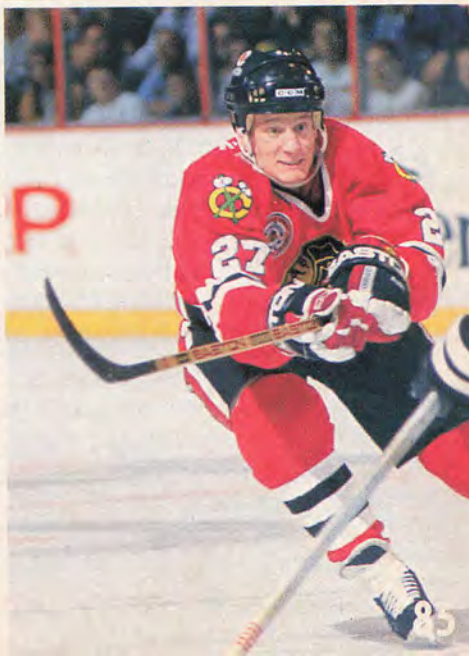

SUPERBOWL XXIV BY MITCHELL B. REIBEL. **KEVIN JOHNSON** BY SCOTT CUNNINGHAM, **JEREMY ROENICK** BY BRUCE BENNETT, **ROWANNE BREWER** BY GERALD FORSTER, **BILLY OWENS** BY BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN, **MICKEY MANTLE** / SPORT ARCHIVE

SPORT

FEBRUARY 1991

THE 1991 SPORT SWIMSUIT SPECTACULAR

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85 **A BIG HIT IN CHICAGO** The Blackhawks are giving their fans something to yell about—starting with the first note of the national anthem. *By Steve Rosenbloom*

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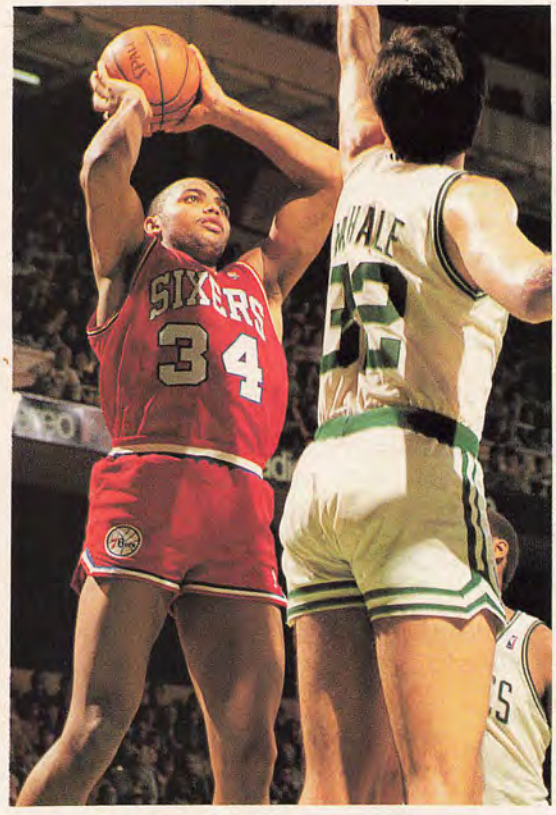
COVER PHOTO OF **BROOKE MORALES** BY ALAN LEVENSON. ASSISTED BY CAMERON WONG AND NELSON MACHIN. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY KIMI MESSINA.

SPORT MAIL

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

I was very happy to see SPORT and Bob Ryan acknowledge the inevitable Detroit Pistons 3-peat in your SPORT 1990-91 NBA Preview (December). I can't wait till next year when I'm sure you'll be predicting a 4-score.

Michael B. Karbal, M.D.
Troy, Michigan



STEVE LIPOFSKY

Good for you, SPORT. You're the only publication with enough common sense to pick the new and improved Boston Celtics to win the Atlantic Division.

Max de Gennaro
Phoenix, Arizona

How could you possibly pick the Boston Celtics to win the Atlantic? The front line of Bird, McHale and Parish has been a great one, but they are old, old and old—not necessarily in that order.

Pepper Wynes
El Dorado Springs, Missouri

You failed to mention that your contributing editor for pro basketball, Bob Ryan, is also a writer for the *Boston Globe*. Had you or he mentioned that fact, a lot of readers would have realized how biased Mr. Ryan is toward the Green. He did the same thing several issues ago when he picked Bill Russell over Wilt Chamberlain ("The SPORT All-Time NBA All-Star Team," March '89). I'm just shocked he didn't pick Larry ("Legend") Bird as the MVP and Dee Brown as the rookie of the year.

Robert Kitchin
Severn, Maryland

Are you out of your mind? Picking the Suns over the Trail Blazers is crazy.

Deric Bickett
Chaska, Minnesota

The Jazz in first? Dallas (who?) in second? This must be Mad Magazine!

Randy M. Taylor
Gresham, Oregon

As always, the SPORT preview is the savviest—and most entertaining—in NBA-land. But I have a problem. Since when did SPORT go in for "safe, secure, blue-chip" bets? Michael Jordan could very well win the MVP, as you predict, but Charles Barkley (pictured) will deserve it . . . again.

Mo Bannister
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

COLLEGE HOOP-LA

So once again, Tom Kertes, you give a very good UNLV team very little credit and an overrated Duke team too much ("The SPORT 1990-91 College Basketball Preview," December). You seem to forget that this very same Rebels team not only beat the Blue Devils a few months back in the championship game, but it humiliated them.

Craig Ayala
San Jose, California

UNLV's Larry Johnson on your preseason All-America second team, behind Billy Owens and Christian Laettner? Are you kidding me?

Jim Hollon
Lakewood, California

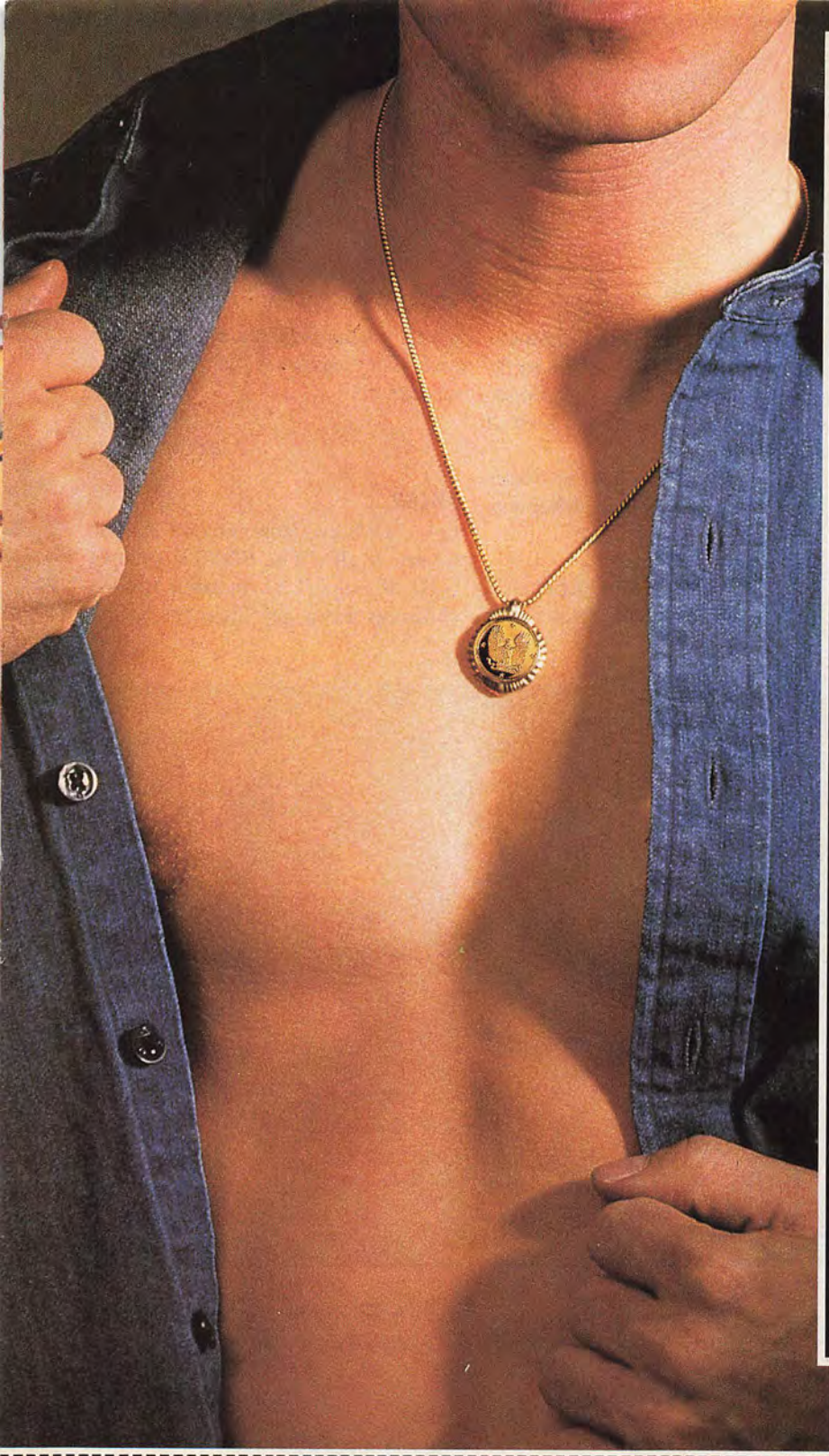
I have always bragged to my friends about how comprehensive SPORT is and how accurate your predictions seem to be. However, I've read your college basketball preview three times, and I can't find the University of New Mexico Lobos anywhere, or any team in the WAC, for that matter. Your issue was pointed toward a resurgence in the West (Arizona, UNLV, UCLA)—where do you think New Mexico is, outside the 50 states?

Ken Ikelman
Albuquerque, New Mexico

For our view of the WAC's place in the scheme of things, check out our ratings of the college basketball conferences in this issue.

LEONARD MARSHALL

Your article about Leonard Marshall ("Beers with . . . Leonard Marshall," November) mentioned his generous commitment to charitable causes. Leonard serves as vice chairman of the Leukemia Society of America's national sports committee and has received many awards for his tireless efforts to help provide comfort and



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MAIL

hope to victims of tragic diseases such as leukemia. His volunteer activities are truly inspirational to all of us involved with the Leukemia Society.

Gary Carter
New York, New York

Carter, in addition to his catching duties, serves as national sports committee chairman for the Leukemia Society of America.

PERSPECTIVE

I am in the U.S. Army and currently reside in Saudi Arabia. In your November issue, you interviewed the golden boy of American football, Joe Montana. I liked the man until he said that life was hard at times because of practices and fans irritating him. I too find life is hard—because of the heat of this desert and the separation from my family. But I make less than the poverty level, and he makes $4 million a year. I would hope that the man would care more about the public and know that without the public, he couldn't play a child's game for a living.

PFC Hans Geevers
Operation Desert Shield

J. David Miller's interview with Joe Montana, the greatest quarterback in the history of football, was pure entertainment. Montana's frankness on being a family man, not being patient sometimes with his kids and the joys and pains of raising a family puts an excellent touch on Mr. Cool himself. He's not at all different than you and me.

Gilbert B. Battung
Union City, California

I applaud your exclusive interview with Montana. There have been a lot of articles about him in the last year, but J. David Miller's was the best. I watched Joe lead his team to its first Super Bowl championship in January of 1982, and since then, hard work, determination and pure excellence have brought him the success he well deserves.

Leanne James
Birch Run, Michigan

He's so good-looking too.

June Michalski
Williamsville, New York

IRA GABRIEL

Super Joe! The arm, the guts, the legend. Bubby Brister. The arm, the guts, the future.

Donna Jo Farr
Table Grove, Illinois

MACHO MAIL

It sounded like Davis Miller had a great time with the Macho Man ("Beers with . . . Macho Camacho," December). I hope Hector Camacho (pictured) takes his career very seriously from this point on and prepares himself well to beat Julio Cesar Chavez. Camacho is disliked by many, but nobody can argue his success. They can't say he's not a true champion.

Edgar Soto
Aurora, Illinois

PUCKY

Get real, Steve Rosenbloom! Buffalo to win it all ("The SPORT 1990-91 NHL Preview," November)? If early showings mean anything, the Sabres will have trouble staying out of the Adams Division basement.

Chuck T. Allen
Hull, Massachussetts

SAVVY VETERAN

I'll bet I'm one of the oldest subscribers to SPORT. I am 93, but I love sports and enjoy your magazine.

Mrs. Al Bowen
Brandenton, Florida

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Los Lobos—The Neighborhood (Slash/Warner Bros.) 412·510

Vanilla Ice—To The Extreme (SBK) 413·203

Deee-Lite—World Clique (Elektra) 412·742

Kyper—Tic Tac Toe (Atlantic) 412·700

D-Nice—Call Me D-Nice (Jive/RCA) 412·692

Force M.D.'s—Step To Me (Reprise/Tommy Boy) 412·445

David Benoit—Inner Motion (GRP) 411·751

Black Sabbath—TYR (I.R.S.) 411·470

Judy Collins—Fires Of Eden (Columbia) 411·348

Johnny Van Zant—Brickyard Road (Atlantic) 411·025

The Rippingtons—Welcome To The St. James' Club Featuring Russ Freeman (GRP) 410·498

Vixen—Rev It Up (EMI) 410·316

Boogie Down Productions—Edutainment (Jive/RCA) 410·308

Kronos Quartet—Black Angels (Elno) 409·912

Brahms: The 3 Violin Sonatas—Itzhak Perlman/Daniel Barenboin (Sony Classical) 409·367

The Neville Brothers—Brother's Keeper (A&M) 409·011

Bob James—Grand Piano Canyon (Warner Bros.) 408·906

Santana—Spirits Dancing In The Flesh (Columbia) 408·773

Breathe—Peace Of Mind (A&M) 411·686

Reba McEntire—Rumor Has It (MCA) 411·538

Frank Zappa—Apostrophe/Overnite Sensation (Rykodisc) 412·395

Jimi Hendrix—Radio One (Rykodisc) 412·379

David Bowie—Changesbowie (Greatest Hits) (Rykodisc) 412·247

The Best Of Fats Domino Volume One—My Blue Heaven (EMI) 411·579

The Rascals' Greatest Hits—Time Peace (Atlantic) 411·322

Hollies—Epic Anthology (Epic) 409·730

The Monkees—Greatest Hits (Arista) 408·203

The Best Of Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels—Rev Up (Rhino) 405·753

Tommy James & The Shondells—Anthology (Rhino) 405·746

The Band—To Kingdom Come...The Definitive Collection (Capitol) 388·181/398·180

John Lennon / Yoko Ono—Double Fantasy (Capitol) 380·774

Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young—So Far (Atlantic) 378·745

Grateful Dead—Skeletons From The Closet (Warner Bros.) 378·406

Roy Orbison—The All-Time Hits, Vols. 1 & 2 (Columbia Special Prod.) 377·945

The Who—Who's Better, Who's Best (MCA) 376·657

The Very Best Of The Everly Brothers (Warner Bros.) 372·912

Warrant—Cherry Pie (Columbia) 411·389

Toto—Past To Present 1977-1990 (Columbia) 411·371

Steppenwolf—16 Greatest Hits (MCA) 372·425

Jerry Lee Lewis—18 Original Sun Greatest Hits (Rhino) 369·108

Best of Ritchie Valens (Rhino) 369·082

Marvin Gaye—Greatest Hits (Motown) 367·565

Jethro Tull—Thick As A Brick (Chrysalis) 367·136

The Drifters—Golden Hits (Atlantic) 365·841

Ray Charles Greatest Hits, Vol. 1 (Dunhill CD Classics) 365·791

Traffic—John Barleycorn Must Die (Island) 364·935

Styx—Classics Vol. 15 (A&M) 364·448

Grand Funk Railroad—Grand Funk Hits (Capitol) 359·828

Best Of The Doors (Elektra) 357·616/397·612

Aretha Franklin—30 Greatest Hits (Atlantic) 350·793/390·799

Rolling Stones—Sticky Fingers (Rolling Stones Rec.) 350·645

Van Morrison—Moondance (Warner Bros.) 349·803

The Mamas & The Papas—16 Of Their Greatest Hits (MCA) 348·623

Buddy Holly—From The Orig. Master Tapes (MCA) 348·110

The Beach Boys—Made In U.S.A. (Capitol) 346·445

Michael Franks—Blue Pacific (Reprise) 408·328

Indigo Girls—Nomads Indians Saints (Epic) 411·355

Dino—Swingin' (Island) 411·264

Diana Ross & The Supremes—25th Anniversary Album (Motown) 345·454/395·459

Chuck Berry—The Great Twenty-Eight (Chess) 343·657

The Byrds—Greatest Hits (Columbia) 342·501

A Decade Of Steely Dan (MCA) 341·073

Best Of Kansas* (CBS Assoc.) 327·742

Joe Cocker—Greatest Hits (A&M) 320·911

Motown's 25 #1 Hits (Motown) 319·996/399·998

Elton John—Greatest Hits (MCA) 319·541

The Kinks—Kronikles (Reprise) 315·093/395·095

Stevie Wonder—Orig. Musiquarium I Greatest Hits (Tamla) 314·997/394·999

Creedence Clearwater Revival—20 Greatest Hits (Fantasy) 308·049

Lynyrd Skynyrd Band—Gold & Platinum (MCA) 307·447/397·448

Electric Light Orchestra—Greatest Hits (Jet) 300·095

Led Zeppelin—Houses Of The Holy (Atlantic) 293·597

Best Of The Doobie Bros. (Warner Bros.) 291·278

Supertramp—Breakfast In America (A&M) 291·021

The Steve Miller Band—Greatest Hits 1974-78 (Capitol) 290·171

Eagles—Greatest Hits 1971-1975 (Asylum) 287·003

L.L. Cool J—Mama Said Knock You Out (Columbia) 411·165

Anthrax—Persistence Of Time (Island) 411·108

Fleetwood Mac—Rumours (Warner Bros.) 286·914

Linda Ronstadt—Greatest Hits (Asylum) 286·740

Meat Loaf—Bat Out Of Hell (Epic) 279·133

Loggins & Messina—The Best Of Friends (Columbia) 269·605

Peter Frampton—Frampton Comes Alive! (A&M) 262·311/392·316

Chicago—Greatest Hits (Columbia) 260·638

Cat Stevens—Greatest Hits (A&M) 256·560

Jim Croce—Photographs & Memories: His Greatest Hits (Saja) 246·868

Santana—Greatest Hits (Columbia) 244·459

Janis Joplin—Greatest Hits (Columbia) 231·670

Simon & Garfunkel—Greatest Hits (Columbia) 219·477

Sly & The Family Stone—Greatest Hits (Epic) 196·246

Bob Dylan—Greatest Hits (Columbia) 138·586

Jane Child (Warner Bros.) 406·579

Foreigner—Records (Atlantic) 318·055

Carlo Maria Giulini—Mozart Requiem (Sony Classical) 408·575

Bonham—The Disregard Of Timekeeping (WTG) 383·497

Danger Danger (Imagine) 383·398

Dan Fogelberg—The Wild Places (Epic) 411·074

Nelson—After The Rain (DGC) 411·009

Larry Carlton—Collection (GRP) 407·825

Spyro Gyra—Fast Forward (GRP) 407·817

George Strait—Livin' It Up (MCA) 407·684

Jeff Healy Band—Hell To Pay (Arista) 407·569

Madonna—I'm Breathless (Sire/Warner Bros.) 407·213

Zubin Mehta, Cond.—New Year's Concert 1990 Wiener Philharmoniker (Sony/Classical) 407·189

Dio—Lock Up The Wolves (Reprise) 407·114

Michael Bolton—Soul Provider (Columbia) 383·083

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Beaches—Original Soundtrack (Atlantic) 379·669

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- ☐ **Heavy Metal** *Mötley Crüe, Slaughter*
- ☐ **Black Music** *Luther Vandross, Bell Biv Devoe*
- ☐ **Easy Listening** *Johnny Mathis, Ray Conniff*
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- ☐ **Jazz**
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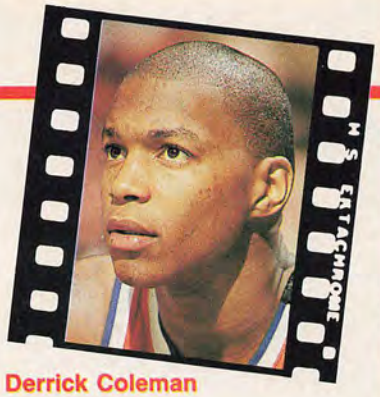
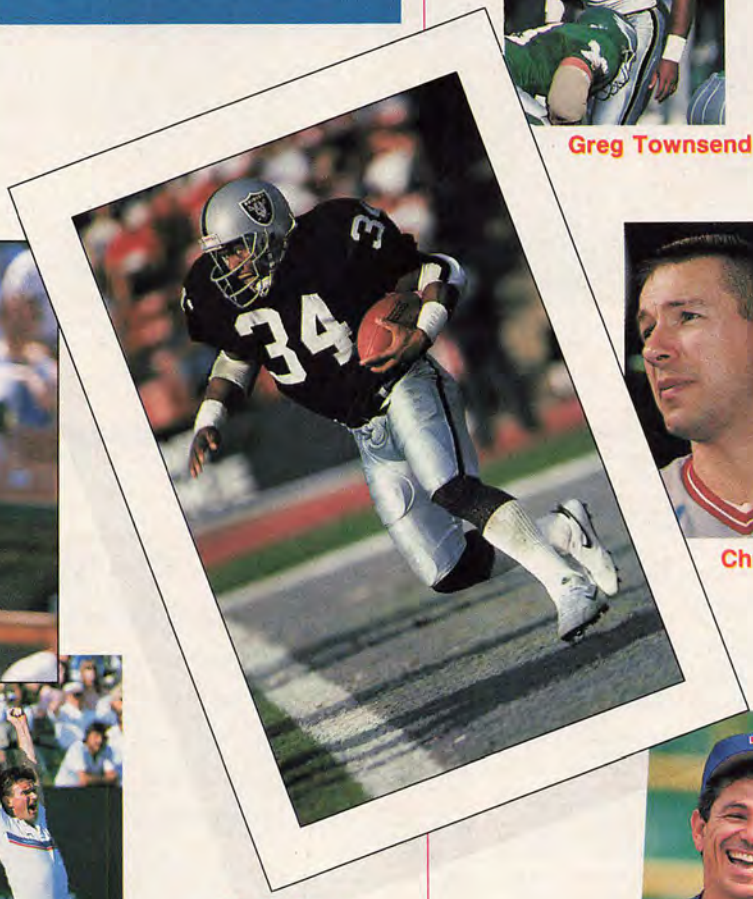
SPORT BEAT



Derrick Coleman

Greg Townsend

Dave Winfield



Chris Sabo

Evander Holyfield

Jimmy Connors

Bo Jackson

Bobby Valentine

Wayne Gretzky may have said "Nah" when the idea of **Bo Jackson** playing hockey came up in that famous Nike commercial, but there was Bo in the **Los Angeles Kings** locker room after a game with the **Detroit Red Wings**, the night they retired the jersey of long-time L.A. star **Marcel Dionne**. "Who's got the biggest skates," Bo wanted to know. He pulled down a pair belonging to **Mike Krushelnyski** and tried them on. "These will kill my arches," Bo moaned. The Kings were 2-0 in Bo-attended games, but he wasn't all good luck. The next day, Krushelnyski was traded to the lowly **Toronto Maple Leafs** . . . **Greg Townsend** of the **Raiders** had a good year in a lot of ways. His efforts on behalf of the homeless will go nationwide soon, and he recently filled up the Crystal Room at the Beverly Hills Hotel with $23,000 worth of donating Hollywood types. The money goes to the homeless through the Family Assistance Program.

Derrick Coleman was always considered a lock for the No. 1 draft pick before this NBA season, but the **Nets** brain trust was seriously considering other options. "I really wanted to draft **Dwayne Schintzius**," a Net minder said. "But the owner vetoed it because he thought he'd go to Italy." Right choice, wrong reason . . . Give SPORT a little credit for the outstanding year and postseason **Chris Sabo** had for the world champion **Cincinnati Reds**. Based on the past, we didn't have the kindest things to say about him before the season. "I was standing right behind him when he was reading the magazine," teammate and friend **Todd Benzinger** told us. "It really got Chris fired up." . . . You thought you'd seen the last of **Jimmy Connors**? Think again. Jimbo is starting a major U.S. tour in February, giving us a chance to experience what's always been a joy to watch—Jimmy Connors (even a 38-year-old Jimmy Connors) playing tennis.

Texas Rangers manager **Bobby Valentine** went 16 years without seeing the video of his career-splattering wall smash. And when he finally did? "Anger," he said. "I see guys chase after balls just like that one, crash into fences just like I did, and come up dusting themselves off. Me? I get carried off the field, never able to perform the way I felt I could." . . . How elated is **Dave Winfield** being a former **Yankee**? "Haven't been this happy in years," he said. "Life with **George [Steinbrenner]** is now a memory—a bad one." . . . After his knockout of **Buster Douglas**, heavyweight champ **Evander Holyfield** thanked, in order, **Jesus**, Buster, **Steve Wynn**, "the whole crew," the promotion people, his family, and his employees at Evander Holyfield Subaru-Buick.

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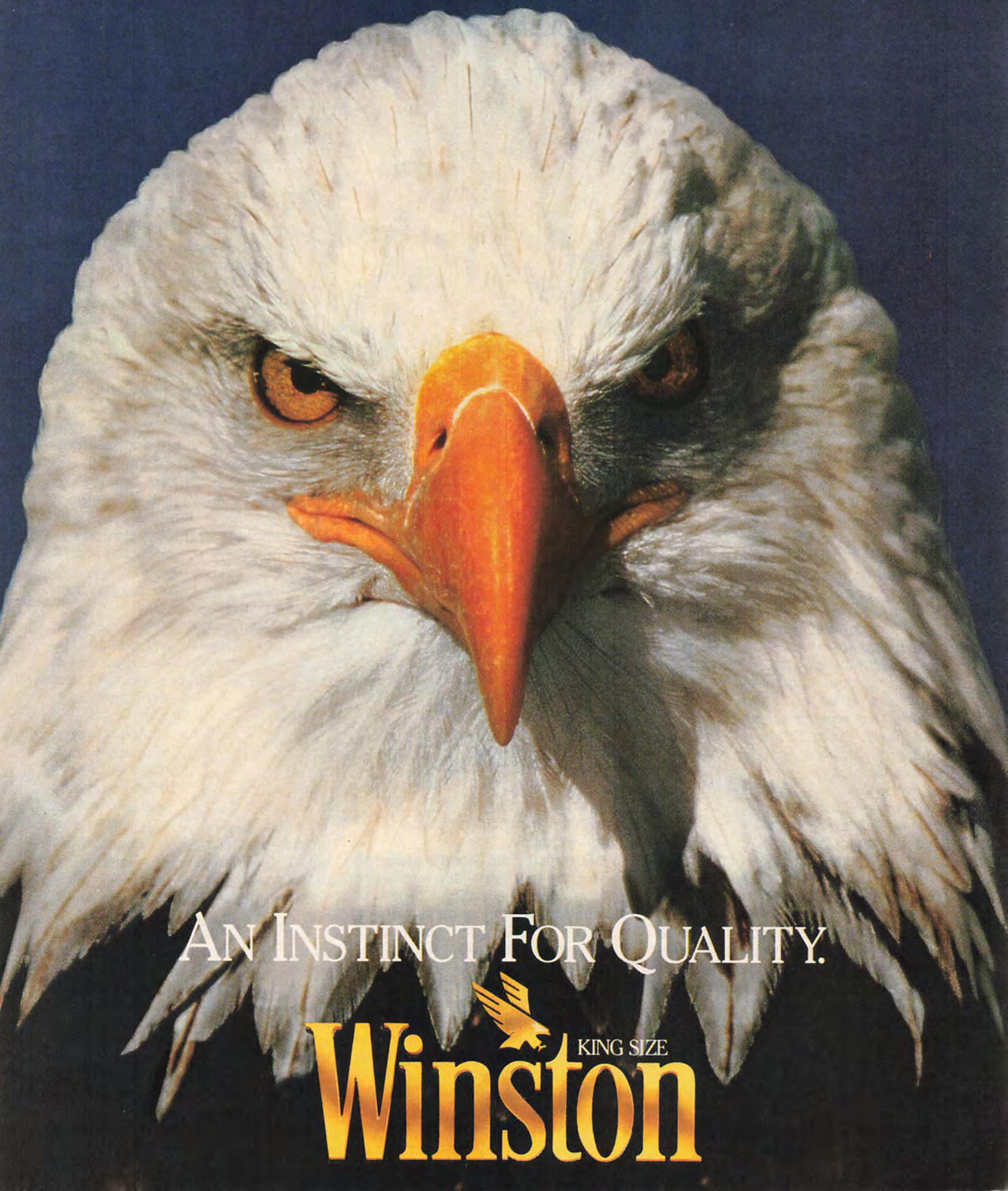

SPORT TALK

WHY THE WORLD CUP IS MORE EXCITING THAN THE SUPER BOWL

Ask the average fan in the street (a U.S. street, that is) which he considers to be the more exciting contest—the Super Bowl or soccer's World Cup. Chances are you'll get a funny look instead of an answer. The look means that the answer is so obvious that it doesn't need to be uttered.

The answer *is* obvious. The World Cup has it all over the Super Bowl.

Consider: Soccer's World Cup still holds a reputation among the unenlightened as the epitome of scoreless drudgery, but compared to the Super Bowl, it's a scoring orgy. Every four years, folks around the planet spend an hour and three-quarters to watch a title game that typically yields 4.4 goals. Super Bowls require roughly twice as much time for 4.9 touchdowns.

World Cup runners-up averaged 1.4 goals, the same pitiful number of TDs produced by Super Bowl losers. But soccer teams lose in half the time.

The scoring itself is more exciting in a World Cup match. A soccer goal is always cathartic, and it triggers a hysterical celebration full of exuberant sprints and friendly pileups. A Super Bowl touchdown often consists of the routine inevitability of a plunge at the end of a drive. On those occasions when it does come dramatically—a 40-yard TD pass, for example—the accepted procedure is to look around for the penalty flag that could kill the moment, spike the ball, and try to go about your business without inciting a penalty for being too happy.

SHANNON JEFFRIES

What's more, the world's preferred form of football is usually interesting until the final whistle. Eight of the 14 Cup finals have either gone to overtime or were decided by a one-goal margin. Super Bowls have usually been as mismatched as last year's U.S. invasion of Panama. Losers lose big, on average by 17 points. Hey . . . *any* soccer game is more exciting than the Super Bowl.

Only one Super Bowl in four has been decided by a touchdown or less, and there is seldom much doubt as to who will dominate. And there is almost never a *real* surprise.

If you listen to the hype, you'd think you were going to see a real contest. But the aggregate score of the last seven games? 278 to 91. Discount the Bengals/49ers classic of two years ago (20-16), and the average margin rises to 31 points. The next closest game during that spell was the 39-20 Giants stomp over Denver in '87. That's what passes for a close game in recent Super Bowl history.

And you think soccer's boring? Maybe you don't like soccer, or understand it, but it's a game of movement. In the NFL, they stand around a lot.

The TV coverage provides ample proof. Take last year's game. If you stayed tuned from the opening kickoff through the final gun, you spent three hours and 21 minutes watching the ball in play for all of 13 minutes and 19 seconds. In soccer, the clock never stops, and the ball's almost always in play.

During last year's Super Bowl telecast, you endured 53 commercials. They lasted 34 minutes, not including the pregame and postgame spots, the four times we were told who the official sponsors of that segment were, or the 23 program promos that pitched one dozen different CBS offerings. Total interruption time? More than 41 minutes—three times as long as the ball was actually in play.

And then there's the question of what it all means. The Super Bowl decides a championship among teams who share revenues, draft from a common pool and represent cities in which maybe a handful of the players actually live. The World Cup is played for the fatherland, pitting culture against culture.

OK, so the American fan is still going to say the Super Bowl is more exciting. But the facts say otherwise.

—Dan Herbst

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SPORT STARS

Sports people, big days, and what the stars said.

SUBJECT: SAM WYCHE

SIGN: Capricorn (b. January 5, 1945)

DATE: October 5, 1990. The Cincinnati Bengals coach is fined a reported $27,941.17 by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue for barring a woman reporter from the locker room after a game between the Bengals and Seattle Seahawks.

THAT DAY'S HOROSCOPE: (*1990 Astro-Annual*): "Don't be quick to do battle—is it important enough to risk a relationship? . . . Avoid gossips. Say nothing; it's only temporary."

SUBJECT: ROGER CLEMENS

SIGN: Leo (b. August 4, 1962)

DATE: October 10, 1990. The Boston Red Sox ace is ejected for arguing with obscenities with umpire Terry Cooney during the fourth and final game of the American League Championship Series against the Oakland A's.

THAT DAY'S HOROSCOPE: (from *1990 Total Horoscope*): "People behind the scenes should be avoided, as they are not reliable. Arguments contain a danger of deception. Influential people are not cooperative . . . ."

SUBJECT: ED O'BANNON

SIGN: Leo (b. August 14, 1972)

DATE: October 10, 1990. Tests show that UCLA's prized freshman suffered ligament and cartilage damage in his left knee during a pickup game the previous night, which will sideline him for the 1990-91 season.

THAT DAY'S HOROSCOPE: (from *Leo Day-By-Day Horoscope*): "Don't be disappointed in the lack of energy you feel. It will come back in time . . . . Your ability to adapt to change is wonderful."

—Compiled by William Ladson

THE ONLY SIX HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS OF THE LAST TWO DECADES WHO GRADUATED

PHOTOS/SPORT ARCHIVE

HERSCHEL WALKER
Heisman winner in '82, signed with the USFL Generals in '83, graduated from Georgia in '84.

TIM BROWN
Heisman winner and Notre Dame graduate in '87, joined the Raiders in '88.

BILLY SIMMS
Heisman winner in '78, graduated from Oklahoma and signed with the Detroit Lions in '80.

ARCHIE GRIFFIN
Heisman winner in '74 & '75, graduated from Ohio State and signed with the Cincinnati Bengals in '76.

EARL CAMPBELL
Heisman winner in '77, signed with the Houston Oilers in '78, graduated from Texas in '80.

PAT SULLIVAN
Heisman winner in '71, graduated from Auburn and signed with the Atlanta Falcons in '72.

TALE OF THE TAPE

VICTOR KIAM **vs.** SAM WYCHE

ROBERT MYERS

We're going to need a 1950s-style ring for this fight because that's where our combatants' mentalities are. First, Patriots owner Victor Kiam belittles the female reporter who alleged she was sexually harassed by members of his team. Then Bengals coach Sam Wyche fuels the fire by banning a female reporter from the Cincinnati locker room, as if that issue weren't settled 10 years ago. We can't decide who is more deserving of the troglodyte-of-the-year award, so let them settle the question in the ring.

KIAM		WYCHE
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"SHE'S A LOVELY LADY AND MY APOLOGIES TO HER."	QUOTES	"SAM WYCHE WAS NOT LETTING A WOMAN INTO THE LOCKER ROOM WITH ALL HIS PLAYERS NAKED."
"PLEASE DON'T STOP BUYING MY RAZORS."	TRANSLATION	"*NOW* WILL PEOPLE PRONOUNCE MY NAME RIGHT?"
FRED FLINTSTONE	ROLE MODEL	RALPH KRAMDEN

DO THE MEDIA— MEN OR WOMEN, PRINT OR BROADCAST— BELONG IN THE LOCKER ROOM?

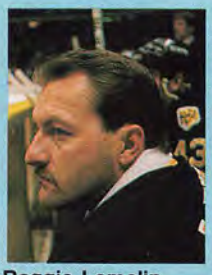
Daily print and electronic reporters insist that they need access to the locker rooms immediately after games in order to absorb the impact of the preceding contest and to get quotes in time for deadline. The clubs and leagues accommodate them. The result is that after an important game, there's often more media in the clubhouse than team personnel. How do the players feel about it? We asked some, and here's what they had to say.

JON SOOHOO/BERNSTEIN & ASSOC.

Steve Beuerlein

IRA GABRIEL

Todd Benzinger



MICHAEL PONZINI

Reggie Lemelin

TODD BENZINGER—**Cincinnati Reds:** "I don't think members of the media belong in the locker room. It's a private place for athletes to undress themselves. Personally speaking, it's very uncomfortable when you [undress] in front of them. You must have women and the rest of the media in a separate room and conduct the interviews."

REGGIE LEMELIN—**Boston Bruins:** "I think there should be an interview room set up [for reporters] to talk to only the stars of the game. In my opinion, there are a lot of reporters who just hang around the locker room to be friends with the players. When the reporters talk to you about a hockey story they're doing, you find out that the story is not in the paper."

KELLY GRUBER—**Toronto Blue Jays:** "If some players don't like members of the media, particularly women, in the locker room, I think it's their right not to let them in. It's just like a woman barking about her rights to be in the locker room. Maybe management should set up interviews between the dugout and the locker room."

DAVE GAGNER—**Minnesota North Stars:** "I have no problems with the media in the locker room. But if you want to settle this controversy, the press should wait a half-hour after every player has showered and dressed."

HAL MORRIS—**Cincinnati Reds:** "I think members of the media should be allowed in the locker room. They have to cover the games and get quotes to back up their stories. But there's a double standard in the media. I don't like when you don't get to see male reporters in a women's locker room after a tennis match. Men belong in the women's locker room too."

ANDY BRICKLEY—**Boston Bruins:** "I think all members of the media belong in the locker room because they are paid to write the best stories they possibly can. If you take the media out of the locker room, the reader wouldn't get the atmosphere that goes on around the team."

JOE OLIVER—**Cincinnati Reds:** "Granted, [the media] have a job to do. But if you want to settle the problems of women in the locker room, then you should set up an interview room for members of the media."

MERVYN FERNANDEZ—**Los Angeles Raiders:** "The media belong in the locker room, but I think athletes should shower and put their clothes on first before they talk to them."

STEVE ATWATER—**Denver Broncos:** "The media belong in the locker room. The public is entitled to know what's going on right after a ball game. I know I wanted that information when I was a teen-ager."

LEONARD MARSHALL—**New York Giants:** "I think it's necessary for the media to be in the locker room because they give the fan an insight on what it's like to be a professional athlete. There are times when you don't want to read about [just] the game. You want to read about a player's feelings on certain issues."

STEVE BEUERLEIN—**Los Angeles Raiders:** "I'm a strong advocate of giving players time to shower, dress and then talk to the media in the locker room. I don't agree with women being in the locker room any time they want. They should wait like everybody else until we put some clothes on." —*William Ladson*

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TEN THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE MONTREAL CANADIENS

1. The Canadiens, who finished last in their inaugural season in 1909-10, have won a record 23 Stanley Cups. Their first was in 1916.

2. The club's logo, a "C" with an "H" in the middle, stands for Le Club de Hockey Canadien.

3. Goalie Georges Vezina, known as the "Chicoutimi Cucumber" for his birthplace and coolness under fire, never missed a game from 1910 to 1925. He fathered 22 children and died in 1926 at age 39.

4. Montreal won the highest-scoring game in NHL history, a 14-7 victory over the Toronto St. Patricks in 1920.

5. The Canadiens won their first game in the $1.5 million Montreal Forum on November 29, 1924—a 7-1 win over the St. Pats. The Canadiens also won the first game in the Boston Garden, defeating the Bruins, 3-2, in 1928.

6. Howie Morenz, the original "Flying Frenchman," was called the Babe Ruth of hockey. He died in 1937 at age 34 of a coronary embolism, and his funeral was at the Forum.

7. More than 10,000 fans rioted outside the Forum in 1955 when it was learned that Maurice "Rocket" Richard had been suspended for the season's last three games and the playoffs for punching linesman Cliff Thompson. The next to last game of the season was halted when a tear gas bomb exploded. The Canadiens lost in the Cup finals to the Detroit Red Wings.

8. The Canadiens' power play in the 1950s, led by Richard, Bernie Geoffrion, Jean Beliveau and Doug Harvey, was so potent that league rules were changed so that once the team with the man advantage scored, the minor penalty was over.

9. Jacques Plante, who in 1959 became the first goalie to wear a mask, was traded to the Rangers because management reportedly thought he was a hypochondriac.

10. Ken Dryden, "the Thieving Giraffe," started all 20 playoff games in leading the Canadiens to the 1971 Cup. The rookie had played in only six NHL games before the playoffs. *—Mark Mandarnach*

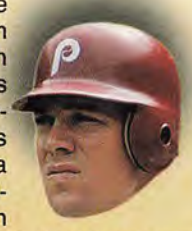
Jacques Plante

SPORT ARCHIVE

DALE MURPHY'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE

For 12 years, Dale Murphy heard nothing but cheers from adoring Atlanta fans back when he was a Brave. Traded last season to the Philadelphia Phillies for reliever Jeff Parrett and minor-leaguer Jim Vatcher, the two-time National League MVP is now confronted with the daunting challenge of winning over the Philadelphia less-than-faithful and overcoming their penchant for fickleness and betrayal. These are fans, after all, who once threw beer cans at Santa Claus, not to mention the wrath they rained upon Mike Schmidt and Charles Barkley.

"It's going to be interesting to see how Murphy's relationship with the fans plays out," says WIP all-sports radio talk show host Howard Erskin, whose afternoon program is No. 1 in the ratings. In keeping with the station's call letters, legions of fans use WIP as a forum to flagellate the victim of the moment. "Last season, they were divided on him. But over the course of a full year, they're apt to really get on him."



Murphy played in 57 games for the Phillies, hitting .266 with seven home runs and 28 RBIs and finished with season totals of .245, 24 homers and 84 RBIs. Possibly as a result of being asked to carry a weak team, Murphy hit below .240 in 1988 and '89—two seasons of notably booable numbers.

Can Murphy, the prototype of the role-model athlete, handle the inevitable?

"The fans here just want to win, and they make sure you know it," says Murphy. "In general, fans in the Northeast are more vocal. Trouble is, they're louder both ways, booing and cheering. But at least they come out to the ballpark." *—Larry Platt*

MICHAEL PONZINI

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"MY LIFE'S LIKE THE AMERICAN DREAM."

By Kent Hannon

BEERS WITH... MICKEY MANTLE

I'm sitting in the sales office of a lakeside resort in Greensboro, Georgia, which is near nothing you've ever heard of, and I'm worried that Mickey Mantle has stood me up.

I used to live in New York, so I'm aware that Mantle's relationship with the press during his 18 years with the Yankees was never that cozy. Plus, a secretary just let it slip that ol' No. 7 has a tee time in 45 minutes, so I figure that spells the end of me and the Mick.

To my pleasant surprise, Mickey Mantle finally shuffles into the office—and one look at his bloodshot eyes tells me why he's an hour late. I've been there a few times myself, so I shake hands and act like I don't notice. But Mantle is up-front and easy-going.

"I had a little wine with the guys last night," says Mantle, with a smile and a gesture toward one of the Harbor Club executives who has convinced him to become a resident spokesman for this new resort. "I guess I'm not as young as I used to be."

Even so, Mickey Mantle is a living American legend. His 1952 Topps baseball card is worth more than $5,000 in mint condition, and the original painting used to produce the 1953 Topps card was sold at auction for $121,000. That's what you call "star quality."

Mantle played in 2,401 games as a Yankee—more than even the Iron Man, Lou Gehrig. And he hit more home runs in the World Series (18) than Babe Ruth. Mantle's 536 homers rank him eighth on the all-time major-league list, and he has nearly enough rings from American League pennants (12) and World Series titles (seven) to wear two on each finger.

Instead, he wears only one piece of jewelry: a Hall of Fame ring.

"I *loved* playing baseball," says Mantle, who is now 59 but no more than 15 pounds over his playing weight of 195. "In fact, I still dream about baseball almost every night. I wake up sweating; I think I'm trying to make a comeback, but I can't run to first base."

Which reminds me of a trivia question.

What position did Mickey Mantle play during his final year as a Yankee in 1968?

If you said center field, you're wrong; his bad knees had relegated him to duty at first base. By his own admission, he was no Don Mattingly.

"I forgot to cover the bag about half the time," says Mantle, who was one of the fastest men in baseball until five knee operations robbed him of his speed. "Plus, it got to where I couldn't score from second base on a single."

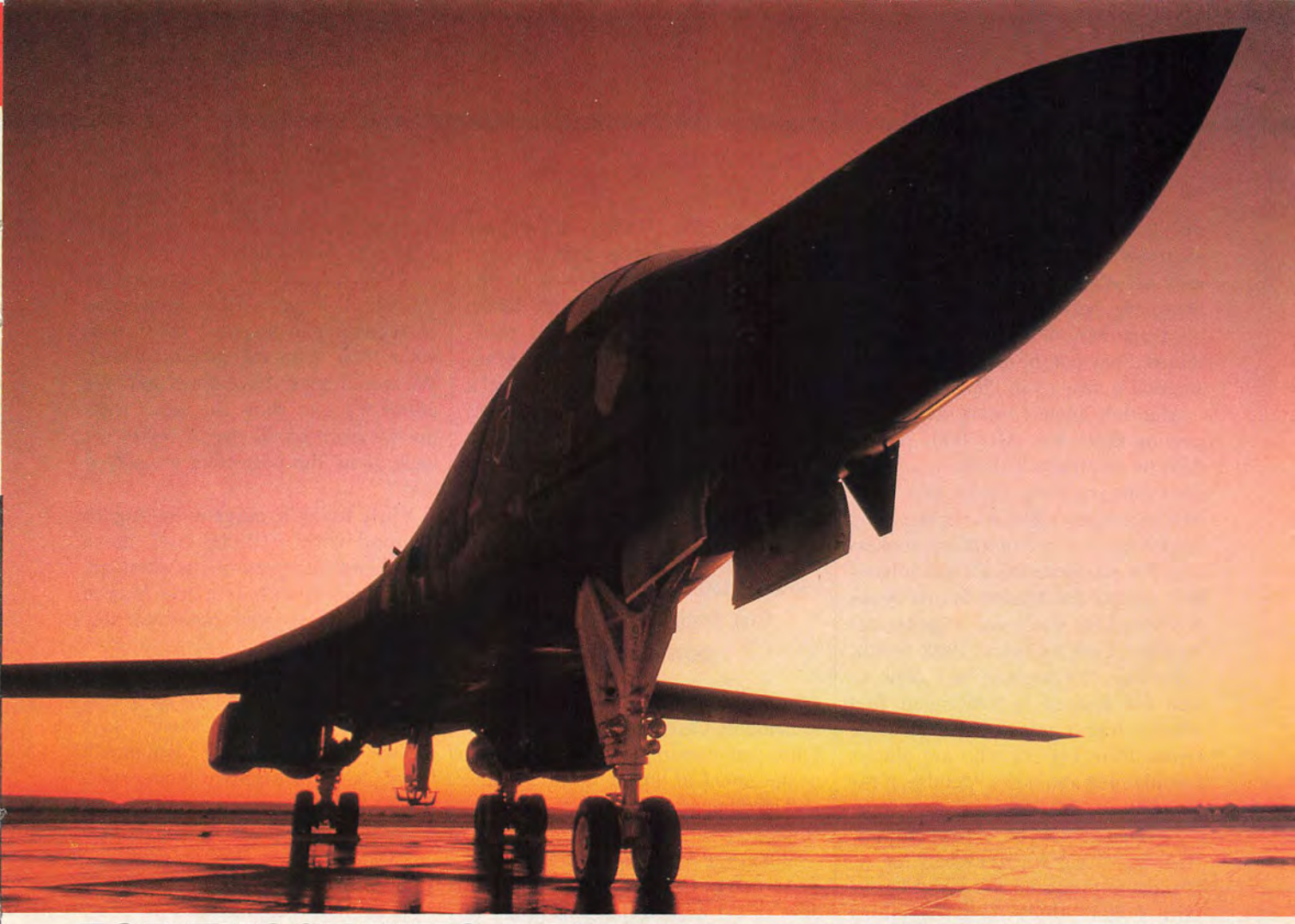
Mantle's greatest season was unquestionably 1956, the year he won the Most Valuable Player Award and the Triple Crown with 52 home runs, 130 runs batted in and a .353 batting average.

You don't see numbers like those anymore—not from Jose Canseco, Cecil Fielder, Rickey Henderson, Kevin Mitchell or Darryl Strawberry. But how much money did Mantle make for doing all that incredible stuff, including leading the Yankees to victory in the '56 World Series?

Peanuts, compared with the annual salary of Canseco, *et al.*

"When I won the Triple Crown in '56, Yankee general

NEIL WAINGROW/RICHARD CORDES



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manager George Weiss doubled my salary—from $35,000 to $70,000," says Mantle. "I was MVP again the next year, batting .365. But the first contract Mr. Weiss sent me contained a pay cut; he said I hadn't had as good a year as in '56."

Mantle's highest salary during his playing days was $100,000. Nowadays he can make $20,000 in a three-hour autographing session at a baseball card show. Besides representing the Harbor Club, Mantle is a spokesman for pharmaceuticals and a baseball analyst for Mizlou Sports News Network. He also owns a sports bar on New York's Central Park South.

Perhaps it's because he's done so well for himself in retirement that Mantle hasn't joined the chorus of critics from his era who are always complaining about the "demise of the game."

"I hear a lot of old-timers say, 'What's wrong with baseball today? It's just not the same!' " says Mantle. "But I don't think there's anything wrong with today's game. The players are great athletes. Guys like Canseco and Mark McGwire—they're not just good; they're big!

"I do think that money can be a problem for today's players; some of them have lost more money in arbitration than I ever made in a season."

Mantle says he wouldn't elevate any of today's players to the status of Ted Williams, Joe Dimaggio or his opposite number at the Polo Grounds for so many years, Willie Mays. But on average, he thinks today's players are better than those of his era.

"They can run, they can throw, and all 10 pitchers on every team are tough," says Mantle. "When I first came up to the big leagues and we were playing the St. Louis Browns, if we knocked out their best pitcher, Ned Garver, we'd have a field day against whoever else they brought in—probably beat them, 22-3. You can't do that today."

Judging from the number of times Mantle brings up Canseco's name, it's obvious the Oakland A's slugger is the player Mantle sees as most closely resembling him—not in the 150-mile-per-hour sports car sense, but in terms of power at the plate, charisma and fan appeal. And Mantle is still competitive enough to feel a sense of rivalry which extends across the years.

When both men appeared at an awards banquet, Mantle couldn't resist ribbing Canseco about all the ballyhoo surrounding his historic 1988 achievement of hitting 40 home runs and stealing 40 bases in the same season.

"I still dream about baseball every night. I wake up sweating; I think I'm trying to make a comeback."

When the Mick got to the podium, he turned to Canseco and said, "Hey, Jose, if I'd known that was going to be such a big deal, I'd have done it three or four times!"

So why didn't he?

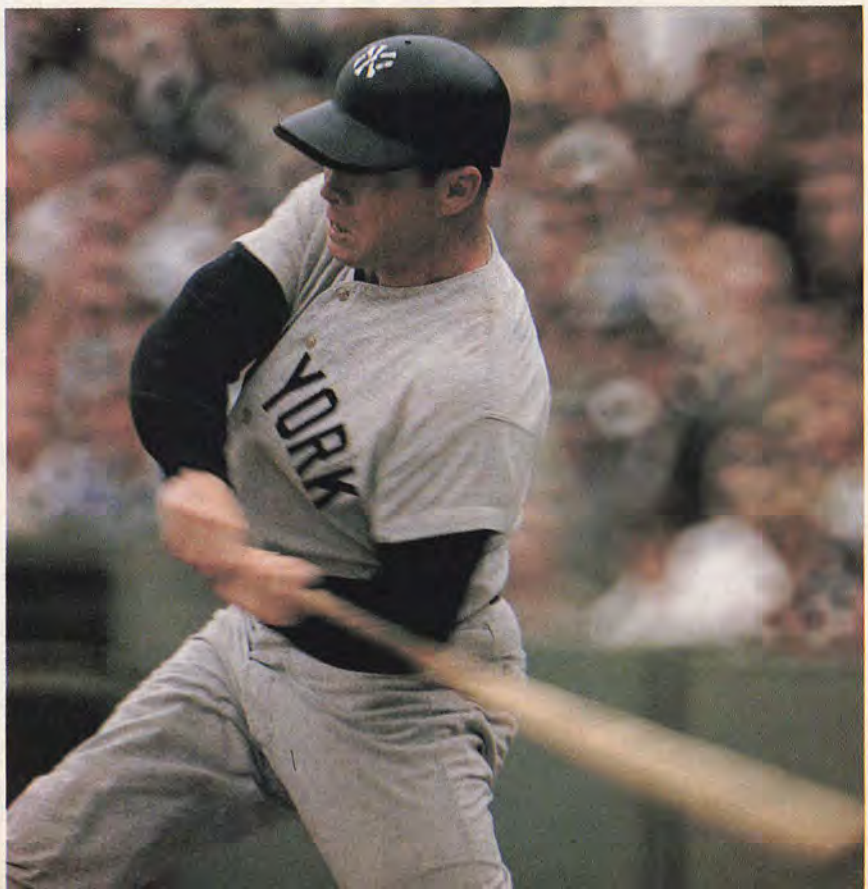
"We weren't as concerned with statistics," he says. "I've seen some of today's players steal third base when their team was 10 runs ahead. We would never have done that. We didn't want to show the other team up; we were afraid they'd try to get back at us the next time we played 'em."

With today's players having to contend with artificial turf, more travel and increased media pressure, what player from his era does Mantle think would be best suited to play baseball today?

"This will surprise some people, but the best all-around player I ever played with was Roger Maris," says Mantle. "When you say his name, a lot of people just think of home runs. But he had a great arm, and he never made mistakes.

"Roger was like Whitey Ford and Billy Martin to me—a brother."

That sharply contradicts press accounts that reported Mantle and



SPORT ARCHIVE

Maris feuded during the 1961 season when Maris hit 61 homers and Mantle slugged 54.

"If we were enemies, it was news to us—because we were roommates that season," says Mantle. "Of course, we had different habits off the field. I'd be out till all hours, and Roger'd go to bed early. The next morning, he'd come into the bedroom, hit me in the head with the newspaper and say, 'Hey, Slick, get up! The press says we just had another fight.'"

Mantle might've broken Ruth's magic 60-home run barrier himself had he not been injured late in the '61 season. But he remembers the pressure Maris had to deal with—and it wasn't a pretty sight.

"It got so bad that pieces of his hair started falling out—like a dog with mange," Mantle says. "When Ruth hit 60, nobody made anything of it. But what Roger did with all that pressure—I don't care how many extra games he had to hit 61—was just unbelievable. In fact, if there was ever a record that shouldn't have an asterisk next to it, it's Roger's."

Losing old friends has been tough on Mantle.

"I was a pallbearer at Billy Martin's funeral," he says, "and I was supposed to deliver the eulogy at Roger's, but I couldn't . . . just too choked up."

And this is the guy the New York press labeled aloof. By his own admission, Mantle has never been anything but a country boy, and he thinks that may have contributed to his problems with the press.

"I was nervous and shy in crowds," says Mantle. "I just never did talk a lot. I grew up on what amounted to a sharecropper's farm in Spavinaw, Oklahoma.

"I never would've amounted to anything in baseball if my dad hadn't worked with me four hours a day when I was a kid. Now my life's like the American Dream." ★

Kent Hannon is a free-lance writer who lives in Athens, Georgia.

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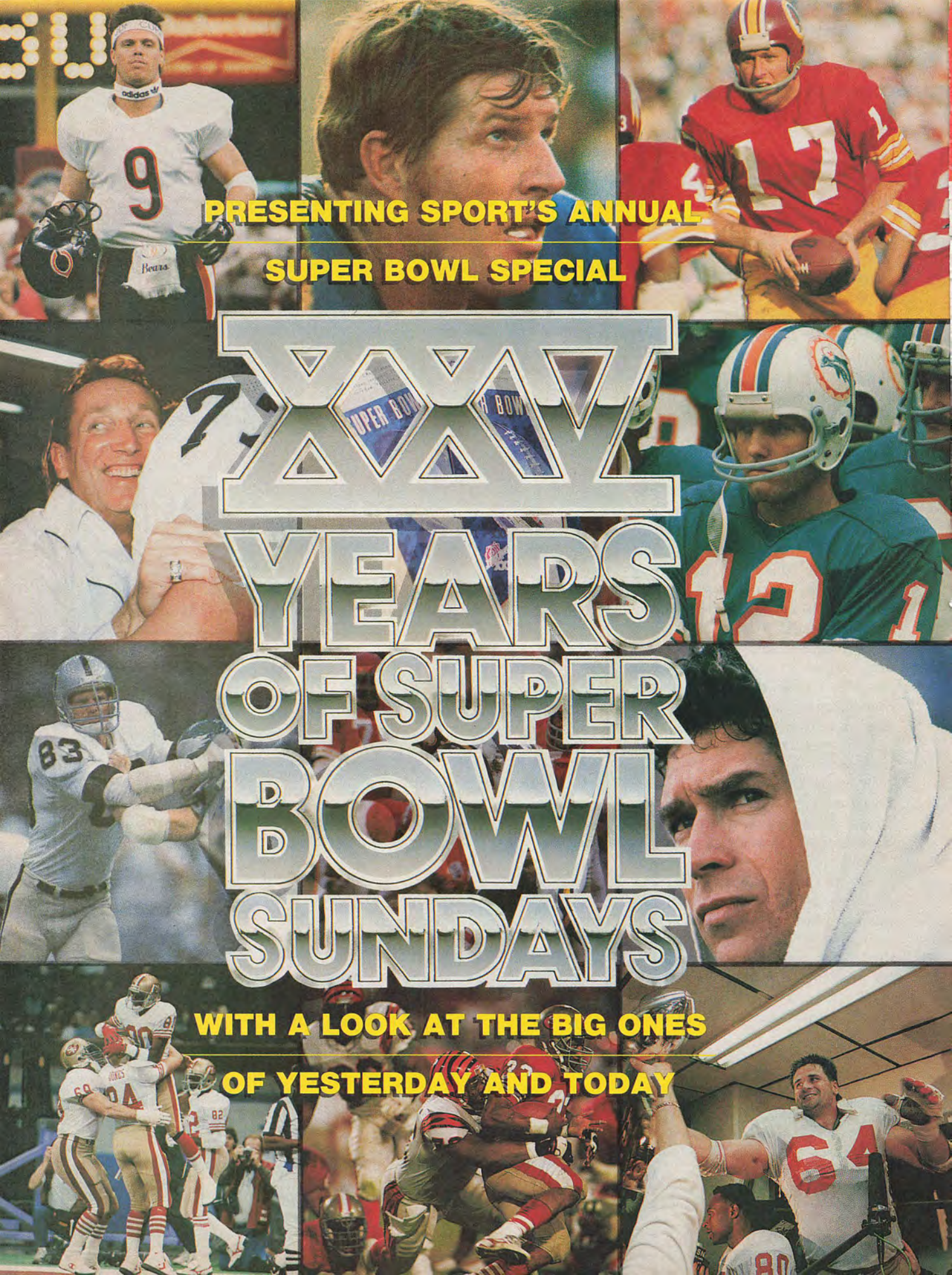

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THE IMAGE OF THEIR SUPERNESS

THE 49ERS KEEP WINNING SUPER BOWLS, AND THEY'LL PROBABLY DO IT AGAIN THIS YEAR. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THESE GUYS?

By Kevin Lamb

It's the players. Yes, the coaching is first-rate. The organization is a model. The money sure doesn't hurt. But it's the players who make the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl what Mickey Mouse is to Disney World.

Their names change, but their calendar does not. This is the ninth time in 10 years the 49ers are in the playoffs, and the eighth in a row. They have a chance to be the first team to win three consecutive Super Bowls, although folks in Green Bay might argue the Packers would have done it if the game had started one year earlier.

When three teams won back-to-back Super Bowls in the game's first 14 years, the league was as different as the America of $4 gas fill-ups. There were no handicapped schedules, the rule book did not beg teams to pass, and the media spotlight was barely a refrigerator bulb. All the changes have helped weak teams at the expense of the strong. They helped keep five of the nine Super Bowl champs in 1980-88 from even reaching the next year's playoffs. Before last year's 49ers, the '83 Redskins were the only defending champion in the '80s to actually win a playoff game.

Yet the 49ers keep coming back as though the playoffs are no more exclusive than a salad bar. They have succeeded where others have failed for myriad reasons. Let's look at the 49ers' formula for Super Bowl success.

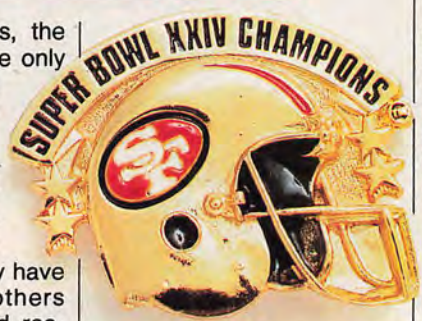
HAVE THE BEST QUARTERBACK

"Simple," says Saints president Jim Finks, explaining San Francisco's dominance. "The quarterback."

Joe Montana won three of the 49ers' four MVP awards for the Super Bowl, and he lost the other not so much because of his own shortcomings as for variety's sake. They chose his best receiver, Jerry Rice.

"When I'm in the huddle with him, my concentration's going to be very focused," tight end Jamie Williams says of Montana. "I don't want to make him look back and say Jamie didn't do his thing, didn't make his play. And he'll know. That's how clued in he is on what's going on. He's one of those guys you don't want to let down, because he's going to be giving his all."

"I think the whole thing evolves around the great confidence the whole team has in Joe Montana," Finks says. "Montana's perfection makes the offense and defense play better than they really are. They know if they make a mistake, he can come back from it."



They also are more determined not to make that mistake, especially when it comes to blocking for Montana. "We want to keep him healthy because he's not the biggest guy in the world," 49ers guard Bruce Collie says.

But blocking for Montana is not so much pressure as it is incentive. "You know if you do your job, he'll do his job," guard Guy McIntyre says.

EARN THE HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

One reason the 49ers win so many playoff games is they earn home games in the winter by winning road games in the fall. They took a league-record 15-game regular-season road winning streak into this December, a feat that summarizes the reasons for their general success quickly.

In those 15 games, the 49ers averaged 27.3 points and reached 23 points all but three times. *Explosive offense.* They gave up an average of 17 points and held seven of the 15 opponents to 14 or less. *Unappreciated defense.* They won six of the games with fourth-quarter comebacks. *Confident, pressure-tested veterans with great coaching.*

For those six quarters, Montana completed 47 of 64 passes for 813 yards with 10 touchdowns and no interceptions. He had an NFL passer rating of 155.0. The maximum rating is 158.3. It is based on four categories, each with a maximum standard, and Montana was at or over the maximum in yards per attempt, touchdown percentage and interception percentage. He was three completions short of going off the chart in completion percentage.

Six times in a row, then, when the 49ers needed to come from behind to win in hostile stadiums with crowds screaming in his ears, Montana not only played well enough to deliver the victories, he played well enough to define the NFL's notion of reasonable perfection.

LEAD WITH YOUR PASSING GAME

Good teams that rely almost solely on the run tend to win their division comfortably and then take a com-

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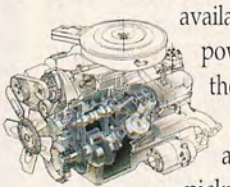

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Dodge

The Dodge SPORT word Puzzle

By Stanley Newman

"SUPER BOWL RECORDS"

Puzzle answers on page 34

Across

1. The youngest Alou brother
6. _____ line
10. Kind of throw or agent
14. Lou Holtz's men
15. He's kicked nine Super Bowl PATS
16. Johnston and Lomax
17. He had a 74-yard TD run in the '84 Super Bowl: 2 wds.
19. They advance the football
20. Compass point: Abbr.
21. Pro golfer Hinkle
22. Sixties Giants manager
23. Pro golfer Woosnam
24. Hard-hit ball
28. Gridiron-gain units: Abbr.
31. Outfield position
34. He kicked a 48-yard field goal in the '87 Super Bowl
35. Seoul's continent
36. Drops a pop
37. Bird, for one
38. He gained 364 yards in four Super Bowls
39. Doctors' organization: Abbr.
40. Prefix for title or winner
41. Kind of tournament
42. He had 11 receptions in the '82 Super Bowl: 2 wds.
44. Iditarod animal: 2 wds.
47. Unitas was one
48. Concealed
49. Zsa Zsa's sister
50. Complain angrily
52. Western bar
56. Eddie Stanky's nickname
57. Wimbledon winner in '75
58. Colleague of Jack, Gary and Lee
59. NHLer, in headlines
60. Bake-sale sponsor: Abbr.
61. "ADVANTAGE: _____"
62. Forties Red Sox pitcher _____ Ferriss
64. 49er who scored 24 career Super Bowl points
67. _____ up (assure)
68. Before, in poems
71. Carried
73. He kicked a 48-yard field goal in the '70 Super Bowl: 2 wds.
78. Bring together
79. He scored 18 points in the '85 Super Bowl
80. NBA rookie of the year in '86
81. " 'Cause the Bible tells _____": 2 wds.
82. Speaks
83. Baseball's "Little Colonel"

Down

1. Bunning and Palmer
2. Stats for Bunning and Palmer
3. Secretariat's father
4. Pac-10 team: Abbr.
5. He's coached six Super Bowl teams
6. One-time "Washington Monument"
7. The Titans' league: Abbr.
8. Look at
9. Ending for north or west
10. "_____ Strikes Out"
11. He gained 235 yards in the '88 Super Bowl: 2 wds.
12. Lodge brother
13. Slalom curve
15. Oil _____ Boyd
16. The Lakers' league: Abbr.
18. Todd Stottlemyre, to Mel
22. Some AL batters: Abbr.
23. "_____ Anybody's Ballgame" (Garagiola book)
24. Pitcher Maglie
25. "Rocky III" bad guy: 2 wds.
26. "Thrilla in Manila" winner
27. Word to an attack dog
29. Uproar
30. _____ Antonio Spurs
31. Base runner's position
32. Columnist Bombeck
33. He scored four career Super Bowl TDs: 2 wds.
34. Venturi and Stabler
35. Mightily impressed
37. Expenditure
38. Moved quickly
40. He's coached four Super Bowl winners
41. Ken of "thirtysomething"
43. Thirties Tigers pitcher Schoolboy _____
44. Did a blacksmith's job
45. Racetrack shape
46. Racetrack starting point
50. Space between outfielders
51. Letters after Q
52. Sold-out theater sign
53. Give-_____-go
54. Fireplace fodder
55. Bullfight cheer
56. "The Babe Ruth Story," for instance
58. Citrus drink Gator _____
62. What 26 Down stung like
63. Jerry Buss or Leon Hess
65. Data, for short
66. "The Penguin"
67. Silver designation: Abbr.
68. Lake near Cleveland Stadium
69. Baseball-scoreboard stats
70. Competitive advantage
71. Brooklyn Dodger, in caricatures
72. _____ bagger (single)
73. Pro golfers Snead and Goosie
74. Coach Parseghian
75. Thumbs-down vote
76. Precedes boom bah
77. Ram's mate

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fortable seat early in January. Playoff teams can stop the run. It takes good passing to beat them.

Passing is what the 49ers do naturally. In last year's playoffs, they beat the two extremes—the Vikings' strong pass rush and the Rams' eight-man coverage.

The Vikings gave Montana little time, so he threw quickly over the middle. "Anybody can do that short passing game," Denver linebacker Karl Mecklenburg says, "but it's a matter of consistency." Montana rarely misses, and his idea of an accurate pass is not just one the receiver can catch. It's a pass that leads the receiver away from his defender.

The Rams played their linebackers deeper to take away the over-the-middle passes that make Rice and John Taylor dangerous, so the 49ers ran at them and threw a deeper over-the-middle pass, between the defensive backs.

Take away the outside, and Montana will take the inside. Take away the running game, as Roger Craig's injury did this year, and Montana's passing repertoire is wide enough to win without it.

DON SMITH

The grace of the 49ers: superstar wide receiver Jerry Rice.

DRAFT WISELY AND BOLDLY

Joe Montana can't do it all by himself though. The 49ers have drafted well year after year, and they've done it *their* way.

Most teams rank the players in order of preference, cross each one off as he's chosen by another team and take the top name on the list when their turn comes. The 49ers use a list too, but they also target specific players they want and the rounds when they want to get them. They aren't afraid to trade up in the order for a prize player, as they did with Rice, or to trade back for multiple picks when the top prospects leave them cold, as they did when the 1986 draft produced eight key players in rounds two through six.

In targeting players, the 49ers look for playing style and to fill roles. Along with only two other teams, San Francisco doesn't belong to a scouting combine. To the 49ers, generic evaluations are a waste of time. They're not looking for football players. They're looking for 49ers.

And they're looking for big plays. In the playoffs, teams are often evenly matched except for three or four plays. If the same team makes all three or four plays, the score isn't so evenly matched. This is not a secret the 49ers have stumbled upon. Every team wants guys who make big plays. But the 49ers are willing to make concessions to get them. They're not so scared by inconsistency in college. They figure they can coach consistency. Big plays are a knack.

Linebacker Charles Haley, for example, was not a consistent college player. He didn't have to be. At Division I-AA James Madison, he was far better than his competition. But the 49ers could tell he had the blend of strength, quickness and speed that produces big plays. They drafted him in the fourth round in 1986, and he has been their best pass rusher since then.

Even Montana and Rice were not widely hailed as sure-thing draft picks. Montana, benched often at Notre Dame for inconsistency, was a late third-rounder. Rice was a No. 1, but there wasn't a scout who choked on his Danish when Al Toon and Eddie Brown were drafted ahead of him. Rice had a 40-yard time of 4.6 seconds, fairly slow for a wide receiver. But the 49ers saw he had what it takes to pull away from a faster man when both were in football uniforms.

The 49ers take chances. In his autobiography, "Building a Champion," Bill Walsh, who coached the 49ers' first seven playoff teams, wrote: "When at the top, you must be bold. It is not the time to be conservative. You have to act." So it was the 49ers who did not agonize in 1988 over Pierce Holt, a defensive end with first-round talent who had the misfortune of being 26 years old. His career would be too short, teams worried. Not that short, figured the 49ers, considering most linemen aren't physically mature until their mid-20s anyway. They took him in the second round, and he's near Pro Bowl caliber.

They selected their other starting defensive end, Kevin Fagan, in the fourth round of that 1986 draft. He was also a first-round talent, but his knee injury in that year's Orange Bowl made it questionable whether he could ever use that talent and certain that he could not play in '86. Most teams are not willing to devote time and money on a player who is out for the season before he signs up. The 49ers are.

> The 49ers earn home games in the winter by winning road games in the fall.

HIRE THE RIGHT COACH

On a greater level, promoting George Seifert to head coach last year was

another gamble. As defensive coordinator, Seifert would spend eight-hour days in his office. Nobody was sure he could deal with people as well as he did with Xs and Os.

"We didn't know what to expect," safety Ronnie Lott says. "That unfamiliar feeling makes you concentrate harder, focus more on playing better ball."

That uncertainty probably helped the 49ers vault the complacency trap on the road to the Super Bowl. They also needed a coach who was sensitive enough to call off Walsh's mind games over Montana's job status and sensible enough to continue the offense and defense that had succeeded. They couldn't have made a better choice.

The 49ers coaching staff always has had the more cerebral flair of its Silicon Valley surroundings. Besides using more intricate playbooks than most teams, the 49ers coaches are open-minded about what helps a team win. Their practices more resemble outdoor classroom sessions than daily pop quizzes in machismo, where so many coaches try to toughen their players by pounding on their hides. Many 49ers practices are entirely non-contact drills.

"From about Week 11 into the playoffs, we were a lot fresher than other teams because we weren't banging on each other during the week," guard Terry Tausch said before last year's Super Bowl. Maybe it was a coincidence, but the 49ers' bad streak of injuries virtually stopped after nine games. Healthy teams win playoff games.

> Take away the running game, as Roger Craig's injury did this year, and Montana's passing repertoire is wide enough to win without it.

HAVE FORESIGHT

San Francisco was developing that short passing game in 1979, when nearly everyone else believed the run had to set up the pass. By the time other teams realized the pass was the future, the 49ers already had their offense built around a quick-thinking quarterback and sure-handed receivers.

Walsh knew a passing-oriented NFL would make pass rushers more important than ever. He knew it would make coming from behind more common. It would lower the value of a 14-point lead, so fourth quarters also would be more important than ever. He applied those insights to both sides of the ball.

The short passing game is murder on pass rushers. The quarterback throws the ball before they have time to wave at him, but they still have to exert the same energy. Pass rushers have the most exhausting job in football. If they don't plumb wear out first, eventually they tend to give up.

San Francisco was one of the first teams whose best pass rusher was a specialist. Fred Dean, with the team from 1981 to '85, did not play on running downs. He was fresh in the fourth quarter. So were the other 49ers defenders because Seifert, as defensive coordinator, made the most elaborate use of substituting by situation in the early '80s. His 1984 defense used various units that involved 19 or 20 people. Since then, the game evolved to more passing on so-called running downs, but the 49ers continued resting their pass rushers, if only by alternating them.

The late '80s also brought more blitzing on defense and better blitzing among playoff defenses. The 49ers offense was ready for it. It already featured the short crossing patterns that are popular blitz beaters. When they added Rice and John Taylor, they had wide receivers who could turn those five-yard passes into 60-yard gains. They'd been looking for those players all along.

DEVELOP KEY ROLE PLAYERS

The 49ers have looked for different types of players through the years because they've established different roles. The first obvious example was Dwight Clark, who was too slow for wide receiver and too small for tight end but perfect for fighting across the middle in the 49ers offense. They had pass-catching specialty backs long before Dave Meggett made the position popular last year and they drafted Dexter Carter this year. When other teams made a run on gravestone monuments dressed as offensive guards, the 49ers kept using smaller, quicker guards who could give their

PAUL JASIENSKI

The muscle of the 49ers: hard-hitting safety Ronnie Lott.

This Month's Dodge SPORT Word Puzzle Solved.

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PLAY BALL!

BASEBALL'S BACK

NEXT MONTH IN SPORT

running game more flexibility and help out blocking the outside linebackers.

Knowing the game's focal point was moving downfield, the 49ers made safety an impact position with Lott. They used big, interchangeable safeties who could match the offense's strong side without moving players. They adjusted early from the big, run-stuffing linebackers to quicker ones who could cover receivers. They created the safety-linebacker hybrid position of Jeff Fuller, Chet Brooks and now Greg Cox, making their nickel defense stronger against the run.

The 49ers look for players specifically to fill their supporting roles. They found them in late draft rounds and in Plan B. They haven't assembled overwhelming defensive players, such as Lawrence Taylor of the Giants or Mike Singletary and Richard Dent of the Bears, but they've had a strong and deep defense that could afford to lose key players. The Bears' and Vikings' defenses fell apart in '89 and '90, respectively, when they lost defensive tackles Dan Hampton and Keith Millard. The 49ers kept winning last year when they lost nose tackle Michael Carter for nine games, including one in the playoffs, and Lott for five.

They knew nose tackle was an important position. It was so important, they signed ex-Giants veteran Jim Burt when he was only a back-up. They did the same with ex-Raiders linebacker Matt Millen. Burt started three games, Millen more than half the season. They helped the 49ers through the playoffs.

> To the 49ers, generic evaluations are a waste of time. They're not looking for football players. They're looking for 49ers.

DON'T GET OLD

The best role players work their way into the lineup. If someone is injured, a role player is ready. If someone is getting old, a role player helps phase him out. Bill Romanowski gradually replaced Keena Turner at linebacker over a three-year period. The 49ers didn't wait for Freddie Solomon to lose his speed at wide receiver. They drafted Rice just before it happened.

"The 49ers have a knack of keeping their roster young," Chicago's Mike Dit-

BOB ROSATO

The power of the 49ers: gritty running back Roger Craig.

ka says. "They pop people in there whenever someone gets hurt. They don't seem to miss a beat. I've seen too many teams let their defense get old."

San Francisco has had three essentially different Super Bowl champions, each with its own leading rusher, kick returner and sack man. Even last year's repeater had 14 new players and seven new starters.

Where other teams kid themselves about the severity of injuries, the 49ers anticipate them before they happen. Lott isn't young anymore, so they signed Saints veteran Dave Waymer in Plan B this year.

DON'T BE CHEAP

The Players Association estimated the 49ers' 1990 payroll at a league-high $27.7 million, breaking their 1989 record of $20.1 million. That can't be done with fiscal soundness, and the 49ers were fined $500,000 for structuring themselves as a DeBartolo Corp. subsidiary without league permission. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said the corporate ownership didn't create a competitive advantage, which was shocking news to the 49ers' NFC competitors, most of whom can't lose money on their football teams. Their owners don't own shopping malls.

Still, there's truth to 49ers executive vice president Carmen Policy's contention: "It's not the money. It's the way it's spent." The 4-12 Jets had the No. 2 payroll last year.

The 49ers pay the right people. Among other things, they anticipate contract bitterness by anticipating inequities. They offer renegotiation before the player demands it. "You know if you play well, you're going to get your due," back-up quarterback Steve Young says.

The largess of 49ers owner Edward DeBartolo Jr. makes Al Davis' "Just Win, Baby" more than a rallying cry. It becomes an order. The way the 49ers are treated, Young says, "Everyone's scared to death not to win."

More than that, they *want* to win for DeBartolo. He hasn't just pointed a gold-plated gun to their heads. When players give him suit-creasing hugs on the way to the locker room, it's clear they have feelings for more than his paycheck signature. "When he says go through the wall, I say, 'Which one?' " Burt says.

"They're flesh and b!ood, not robots," DeBartolo says. "They have families. Why not treat them the way you want to be treated?" The 49ers' owner remembers what so many American businesses are forgetting—that people do a better job when they think the boss cares about them.

As wide receiver Mike Wilson said when he had better financial offers in Plan B, "Why would I want to leave here?"

DON'T GET OVERCONFIDENT

The team has enough veteran leaders to make sure all the players appreciate their good thing. Only five have played on all four Super Bowl teams, but nine have played on three. There is an advantage to trying to repeat. Only players who have won a Super Bowl can fully understand the extent of the rewards it brings and of the sacrifices it requires.

This year, the 49ers were 5-0 when the Oakland A's tripped over their reputations in the World Series and lost four straight. *It could happen to us too,* Lott warned. One week later, after a field goal with five seconds left beat Cleveland, 20-17, Lott said, "We're not a good football team."

The 49ers are, of course, a good football team, and their past makes them better. They know how to cope with playoff pressure. They expect to win. They've done it so often, opponents expect them to win too. Kicker Mike Cofer wasn't surprised that a big play gave him the chance to beat Cleveland. "I expected something to happen," he says.

Their winning margins weren't comfortable this season, but the 49ers never have *seemed* overpowering. Even the dynamic Montana, says former Buccaneer Ron Holmes, "never seemed to do much to beat us, but he always beat us. Then we'd look at the stats, and he threw for 500 yards."

Where other champions have been bullying ruffians, the 49ers are more elegantly smooth, the James Bonds of pro sports. "They just go about it their own way and cut you to pieces," Finks says. "They don't have an overpowering sacker or a stud running back, just a bunch of guys doing their jobs."

It works. The 49ers players, coaches and executives play their roles. The NFL playoffs culminate a war of attrition, and the 49ers understand how to make themselves better while the other guys are wearing out. They can do that just as well without a trumpet fanfare in the background. They don't care about raising welts, just championship banners. ★

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XXV THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SUPER BOWL XXV

HAS IT REALLY BEEN A QUARTER CENTURY? IT MUST BE, BECAUSE 25 MEMORABLE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED/ By J. David Miller

If you asked NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, he would have you believe that the Super Bowl ranks as the most revered of championship games in professional sports. Proud, respected, dignified, Super Bowl XXV will stop time for three-plus hours, as 80,000 fans pack Tampa Stadium and a billion more watch the game on television worldwide.

But SPORT decided to take a closer look at this game of all games, and discovered that it's not all business. We uncovered some memorable moments that might even turn up the corner's of Tagliabue's pursed lips. Wild women and wild finishes. Mixed drinks and motorcycles. Forgotten snap counts and unforgettable plays. Despite a history of lopsided scores, Super Bowl lore is packed with scores of idiosyncrasies and anecdotes that may startle even the staunchest NFL fan.

What we have here is a look at 25 things—excuse us, *XXV* things—we bet you didn't know about the Super Bowl as it reaches the quarter-century mark. Enjoy a drink with Max McGee, or duck in the huddle with Joe Montana as he beats the Bengals with 34 seconds on the clock. Whether you believe Super Bowl hype is overdone or understandable, we think you'll enjoy every drop of these memorable moments.

I

That's the snap count that Bob Griese forgot.

In Super Bowl VIII against Minnesota, the Miami quarterback faced first-and-goal from the Vikings two-yard line. The usually brilliant Griese began his cadence, then suddenly wheeled around to fullback Larry Csonka.

"Hey, what's the count?" he asked.

"It's on two, isn't it?" Csonka answered.

But halfback Jim Kiick disagreed.

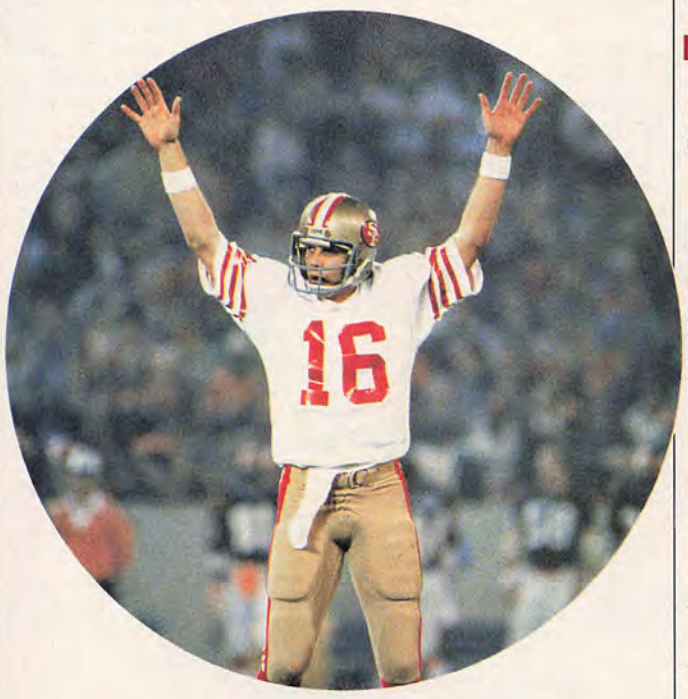
"No... no... it's one," Kiick whispered.

This is a conversation among professionals in the middle of the biggest game of the year? Griese, more confused than ever, finally settled back under center Jim Langer, who snapped the ball on Griese's first "hut." Griese bobbled the snap, but somehow got the ball in Csonka's hands, who slammed it in for the score. On his way to the bench, Csonka approached Griese.

"By the way," Csonka said, grinning, "it's on one."

VERNON J. BIEVER

The Dolphins' Larry Csonka didn't know the snap count, but he knew where the end zone was.



VERNON J. BIEVER

Joe Montana strikes a familiar pose, but not until after the Bengals' Stanford Jennings burned the 49ers' special team.

II

The number of Super Bowl kickoffs ever returned for touchdowns.

Miami's Fulton Walker did it against Washington in Super Bowl XVII and Cincinnati's Stanford Jennings did it against San Francisco in Super Bowl XXIII. Both teams, by the way, lost the game.

STILL PHOTOS: STEPHEN LEE

MITCHELL B. REIBEL

The Redskins' John Riggins wanted three yards, but he got 43 and a Super Bowl ring.

III

The number of yards the Washington Redskins had hoped to get in Super Bowl XVII against the Dolphins on a goal-line play called "70 Chip."

The play was designed by Redskins offensive coordinator Joe Bugel, now the head coach of the Phoenix Cardinals. "We told [running back John] Riggins he should get at least three yards before anybody made contact," Bugel says.

Trailing, 17-13, and facing fourth-and-one on the Miami 43, tight end Clint Didier started in motion left to right, and Miami cornerback Don McNeal followed him inside. Didier then stopped and went back the way he came. When McNeal attempted to reverse his motion, he slipped; quarterback Joe Theismann handed off to Riggins, Didier blocked safety Glenn Blackwood, and lead blocker Otis Wonsley sealed off inside pursuit.

The stumbling McNeal fell into Riggins three yards past the line of scrimmage, and frantically grabbed at Riggins' jersey. But the 192-pound McNeal became a doormat for the 235-pound Riggins, who shook him off and rumbled 43 yards for the deciding touchdown.

IV

The number of cliches Denver Broncos coach Red Miller scrawled on the blackboard during halftime of his loss to the Dallas Cowboys in XII.

With Dallas leading, 13-0, at the half, Red Miller quietly went to the chalkboard and wrote the following words:

Attack, Attack, Attack!
Defense Keep Working!
No More Turnovers!
Offense Break the Ice!

Dallas won, 27-10.

V

The number of touchdowns Joe Montana threw in Super Bowl XXIV against the Denver Broncos.

He completed 22 of 29 for 297 yards and five scores, a Super Bowl record.

VI

The number of completions by Colts quarterback Earl Morrall in Super Bowl III.

Morrall, a 34-year-old journeyman known for his crew cuts, kicked around the league with four teams before going to the Colts as back-up insurance for Johnny Unitas.

Incredibly, Unitas suffered a serious elbow tear in the final preseason game. Enter Morrall. All he did was lead the NFL in passing, win the MVP, lead the Colts to a 13-1 record and a 34-0 rout of Cleveland in the NFL title game.

Then he went *kerplunk* in the Super Bowl, throwing three interceptions *in the first half alone,* dooming the Colts, who were 18-point favorites and ultimate 16-7 losers to the New York Jets.

Morrall's third interception epitomized his afternoon. With 25 seconds left in the first half and the Colts trailing, 7-0, Morrall couldn't see wide-open Jimmy Orr, because the receiver's blue jersey blended in with the marching band lined up behind the end zone. So he instead threw to Jerry Hill and had the pass picked off.

VII½

The size shoe worn by Cyprus-born placekicker Garo Yepremian in Super Bowls VI, VII and VIII. In his three Super Bowl appearances with the Dolphins, Yepremian kicked just two field goals—one each against the Cowboys and Vikings. But most fans remember him for his ill-fated desperation pass attempt in Super Bowl VII against the Redskins, which was returned for Washington's only touchdown.

The Dolphins' Garo Yepremian had the gold foot, but not the golden arm in Super Bowl VII.

VIII

The number of yards that Dallas wide receiver Butch Johnson was supposed to run on a clear-out "in" route in the third quarter of Super Bowl XII.

The called play was a pass to wide receiver Drew Pearson. But when the huddle broke, quarterback Roger Staubach ordered Johnson to run eight yards, then break to the post.

"I'm supposed to run an in," Johnson said.

"Run a post," said Staubach, "and if the safety wavers in the middle, run by him."

Pearson ran a deep "go" route, and Denver free safety Bernard Jackson hesitated in the middle. Johnson took the post, and hauled in a diving 45-yard catch for a touchdown. Dallas won, 27-10.

SPORT ARCHIVE

VERNON J. BIEVER

IX

The number of points that the Rams *would* have led by in Super Bowl XIV had Nolan Cromwell held on to an interception in the third quarter.

Moments after the Rams went up, 19-17, over Pittsburgh, Cromwell broke up a pass from unraveling Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw. The ball hit the Rams safety in the hands, and there was nothing in front of him but grass. "I had it," Cromwell says, "but then I didn't. It made me sick."

But the Steelers fared no better on their next two possessions; Bradshaw threw back-to-back interceptions. "That was the point when I thought, 'If we lose it now, it's a total giveaway,' " says former Browns coach Bud Carson, who was then the Rams defensive coordinator.

Bradshaw perked back to life, and the Steelers won, 31-19. The game's MVP? Bradshaw.

X

The number of 49ers who, due to personal superstitions, took cabs to the Pontiac Silverdome for Super Bowl XVI.

In the first cold-weather Super Bowl, San Francisco head coach Bill Walsh had warned his players to take the bus. "Cabs are too risky," Walsh told his troops. "Cabs can break down, get stuck in traffic, take a wrong turn. Ride the team bus."

On game day, temperatures dipped as low as 11 below zero. Road conditions around the stadium were horrid. "We knew we couldn't break our routine, so we showed up at the pregame meal dressed and carrying our briefcases," says Randy Cross, then the 49ers guard. "There were 10 of us, including [Keith] Fahnhorst and Ronnie [Lott]. We smiled at Bill and headed out the door. We got there about three and a half hours before kickoff. Bill was relieved to see us when he walked in."

The Rams were one interception away from locking up Super Bowl XIV, but Nolan Cromwell dropped the ball.

XI

The number of yards that a quick hitch to Kansas City receiver Otis Taylor was designed to get in Super Bowl IV, during the Chiefs' 23-7 victory over Minnesota.

"It was a simple pass," says former Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson. "It was only designed to get 10 or 11 yards."

With time running down in the third quarter, Dawson took a short drop—and recognized that Minnesota free safety Paul Krause was blitzing. He fired the ball to Taylor, who made the catch and braced for the hit. But when Vikings cornerback Earsell Mackbee dove for the hit, his right arm went numb. Mackbee had suffered a pinched nerve in the NFL title game. "I couldn't feel anything," Mackbee said later.

Taylor broke Mackbee's tackle, raced upfield, then broke the tackle of strong safety Karl Kassulke at the 10-yard line. His touchdown iced the victory for the Chiefs.

half of Super Bowl XVIII between the Washington Redskins and the Los Angeles Raiders when Washington took over at its own 12-yard line.

Redskins coach Joe Gibbs sent in "Rocket Right, Screen Left," a play that would forever etch the name of linebacker Jack Squirek into the memory of the nation. "Everybody was playing zone except Jack," says then-Raiders linebacker Matt Millen. "Jack was playing man against [Redskins tailback] Joe Washington." Joe Theismann threw the screen to Wash-

SPORT ARCHIVE

The Redskins' Joe Theismann could have run out the half, but he threw it to Raider Jack Squirek.

The Chiefs' Otis Taylor should have been stopped for an 11-yard gain, but a pinched nerve sprung him loose.

SPORT ARCHIVE

XII

The number of seconds that remained in the first

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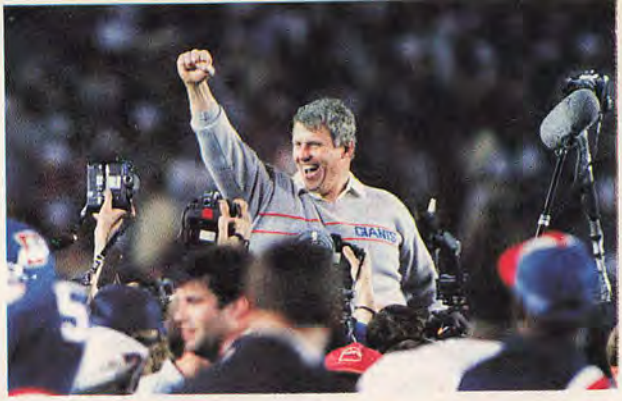
ington, and Squirek stepped in front of it at the five and ran untouched into the end zone.

Today, Theismann, now a television broadcaster, is still haunted by the play. "It was lousy execution by Joe Theismann," he says, "of a lousy play called by Joe Gibbs."

XIII

That's the combined number of Super Bowl appearances for six glamour teams—the Steelers, the 49ers, the Packers, the Bears, the Bill Parcells' New York Giants and five other glamour teams have made 13 Super Bowl appearances and haven't lost one yet.



RON VESELY

The Redskins trailed, 10-0, after a quarter in Super Bowl XXII, but they exploded for a five-touchdown second quarter.

MIKE POWELL/ALLSPORT USA

Giants and the Jets. The six teams are 13-0.

By the same token, six other teams—the Vikings, the Broncos, the Bengals, the Rams, the Patriots and the Eagles—have played in the game a combined 13 times. These six teams are 0-13.

XIV.71

The highest yards-per-completion average in a single Super Bowl is 14.71.

The quarterback? Terry Bradshaw, who did it against the Rams in Super Bowl XIV, when he completed 21 passes for 309 yards.

XV

The number of minutes it took Washington quarterback Doug Williams to dismantle the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXII.

Trailing, 10-0, Williams reentered the game after suffering a slight knee injury at the end of the first quarter. The barrage began with "Charlie Hitch," a seven-yard hitch pass to receiver Ricky Sanders. But cornerback Mark Haynes lined up in a tight bump-and-run coverage, so Sanders adjusted to a deep route. He took Williams' pass at midfield and went all the way in. Four more Washington possessions resulted in four more touchdowns as Williams, named the game's MVP, threw for 228 yards in that second quarter alone.

XVI

The total number of catches that Pittsburgh's Lynn Swann made in four Super Bowl appearances.

Many applaud Swann as the greatest receiver ever to play in a Super Bowl, and he may be. But if you want to play numbers, consider this: San Francisco's Roger Craig, a running back, leads all Super Bowl receivers in career receptions with 20 in just three games. And Jerry Rice has 18 catches in just two Super Bowls.

XVII

The number of times the New York Jets' Joe Namath called "19 Straight" against the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III.

A basic running play, it hammered fullback Matt Snell off the left side of the line. Namath called it on the third play of the game, and Colts safety Rick Volk was knocked nearly unconscious trying to tackle Snell. "An omen," Namath says today.

Snell was the game's leading rusher with 121 yards on 30 carries. His only touchdown? A four-yard run in the first half on—you guessed it—the 19 Straight.

XVIII

The number of Super Bowl records set by the San Francisco 49ers in their 55-10 defeat of the Denver Broncos.

Those records include most points in one game and largest margin of victory. "It got to a point where, being a Christian and being a person who loves people, I actually felt sorry for the Broncos," says San Francisco tackle Bubba Paris. "I know it must have been a terrible feeling to be sitting there 40 or 45 points behind."

XIX

The number of mixed drinks that Green Bay back-up wide receiver Max McGee is said to have consumed the night before Super Bowl I.

McGee, renowned for late-night hijinks with cold

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VERNON J. BIEVER

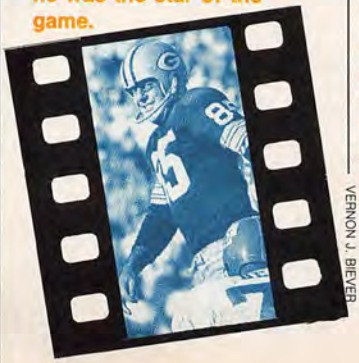
Jim O'Brien leaped high in the air to celebrate his game-winning field goal, but Bob Lilly's helmet flew higher.

drinks and beautiful women, had received a stern warning by coach Vince Lombardi earlier in the week. For the first AFL-NFL championship, Lombardi set the fine at an unheard-of $5,000 for any player who broke curfew.

McGee says Lombardi told him, "Max, if you find anything worth five thousand for sneaking out, call me and I'll go with you." McGee, who had caught just four passes for 91 yards during the 1966 season, knew he wouldn't play unless dependable Boyd Dowler was hurt. So McGee made bed check at 11 p.m., then sneaked out of the hotel. "I came back at around, oh, 7:30 in the morning [Sunday]," says McGee, who is now a radio commentator.

Nursing the most notorious hangover in Super Bowl history, McGee groaned when Dowler went down with a first-quarter injury. Fighting fuzzy vision and a pounding headache, McGee caught seven passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

In the first Super Bowl, Max McGee's eyes betrayed his hangover, but he was the star of the game.



VERNON J. BIEVER

XX

The number of media members who have been to every Super Bowl game.

Although more than 3,000 reporters, broadcasters and photographers will cover Super Bowl XXV, you can count the perfect attendees on your fingers and toes. The 13 writers are Dick Connor, Art Daley, Mel Durslag, Larry Felser, Jerry Green, Jerry Izenberg, Dave Klein, Will McDonough, Norm Miller, Bob Oates, Ed Pope, Cooper Rollow and John Steadman.

The seven photographers are John Biever, Vernon Biever, David Boss, Walter Iooss Jr., Mickey Palmer, Dick Raphael and Tony Tomsic.

XXI

The number of weeks it took for Dallas Pro Bowl offensive tackle Ralph Neely to recover from a fractured leg that he sustained while riding motorcycles with teammates Dan Reeves and Mike Ditka.

The injury caused him to miss Super Bowl VI, and Neely was replaced in the Super Bowl by Tony Liscio, a commercial real estate salesman who had retired from football.

"Me and Dan had to take Ralph to the hospital, then call Landry and tell him we were in the hospital and why we were there," Ditka says. "I've never seen Landry as mad as he was that day. But kids are kids, huh?"

XXII

The number of combined appearances in Super Bowls by the Raiders, the Redskins, the Colts, the Chiefs, the Cowboys and the Dolphins. The six teams are 11-11.

XXIII

The number of Joe Montana's final—and most memorable—completion against Cincinnati in Super Bowl XXIII.

The play call was "20 Halfback Curl, X Up," and is designed to go to tailback Roger Craig. But the 49ers' execution of that play is what made it a fascinating call.

With 39 seconds remaining in the game and the 49ers trailing, 16-13, receiver John Taylor lined up at tight end and Rice went in motion left. Craig broke to the outside, which split the Cincinnati safeties. Cornerback Ray Horton was forced to widen up to defend against the quick out to Rice. When strong safety David Fulcher took two steps toward Craig, it was all the edge Montana needed.

Taylor shot down the middle of the field and caught the winning touchdown with 34 seconds left. Montana's 23rd completion gave him 357 yards, a Super Bowl record.

XXIV

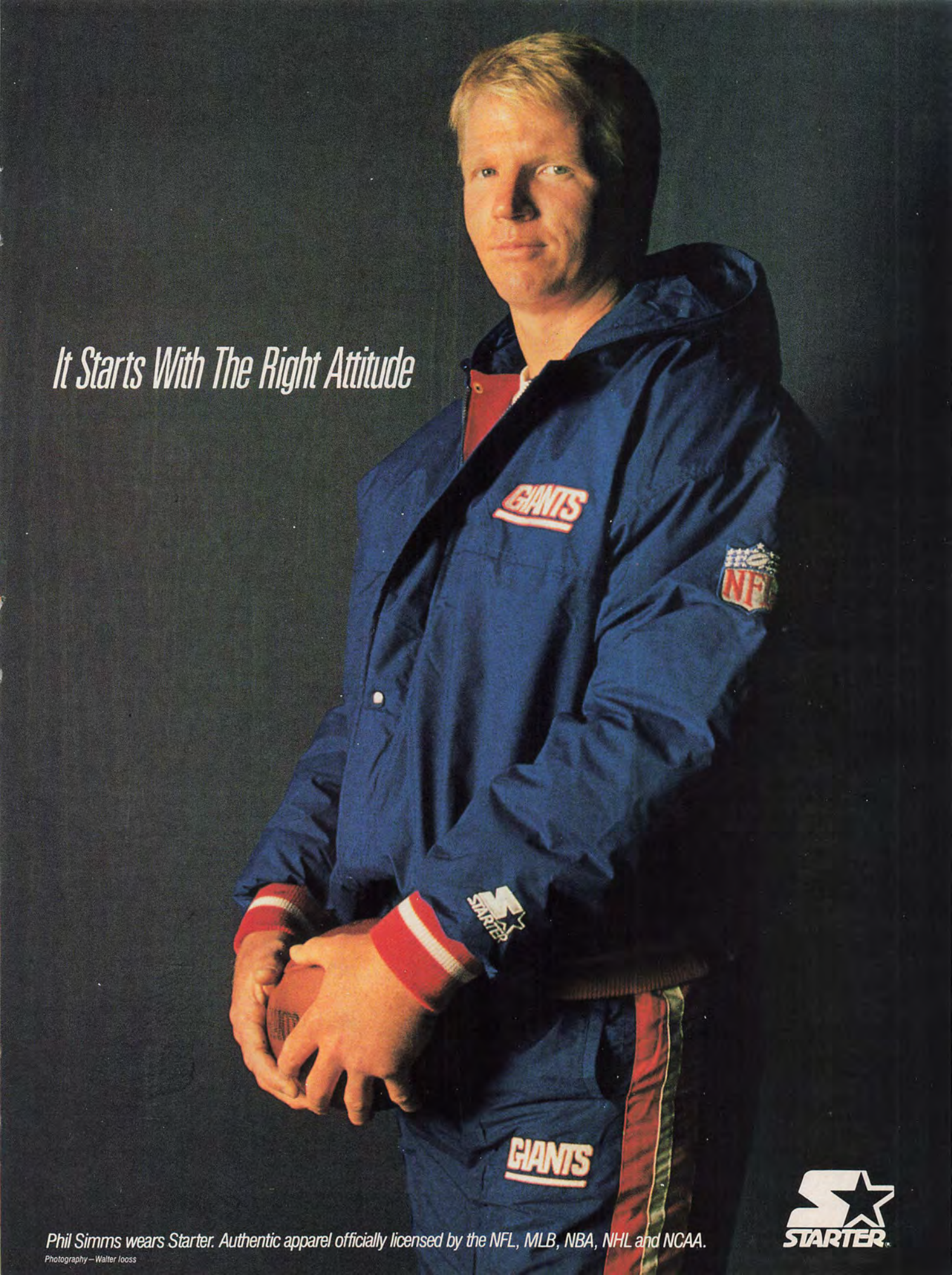
In case you haven't caught on, that's the number of Super Bowls that have been played since the old AFL and the NFL decided to pool their acts. Losing teams in the 24 Super Bowls have averaged 12.7 points per game. The winners, meanwhile, have averaged 29.4.

XXV

The estimated number of feet in the air that Cowboys defensive tackle Bob Lilly tossed his helmet after Dallas lost Super Bowl V.

As Lilly watched the winning kick of Baltimore's Jim O'Brien sail through the uprights in the final seconds, he let his helmet fly. Witnesses claim the helmet went "at least 25 feet" up in the air, and all tolled, traveled roughly 50 yards across the field in what still stands as the longest—and highest—helmet toss in Super Bowl history.

As Lilly walked off the field in disgust, a Colts player—from across the field—returned his helmet. "In addition to feeling awful," Lilly says today, "I felt like an idiot." ★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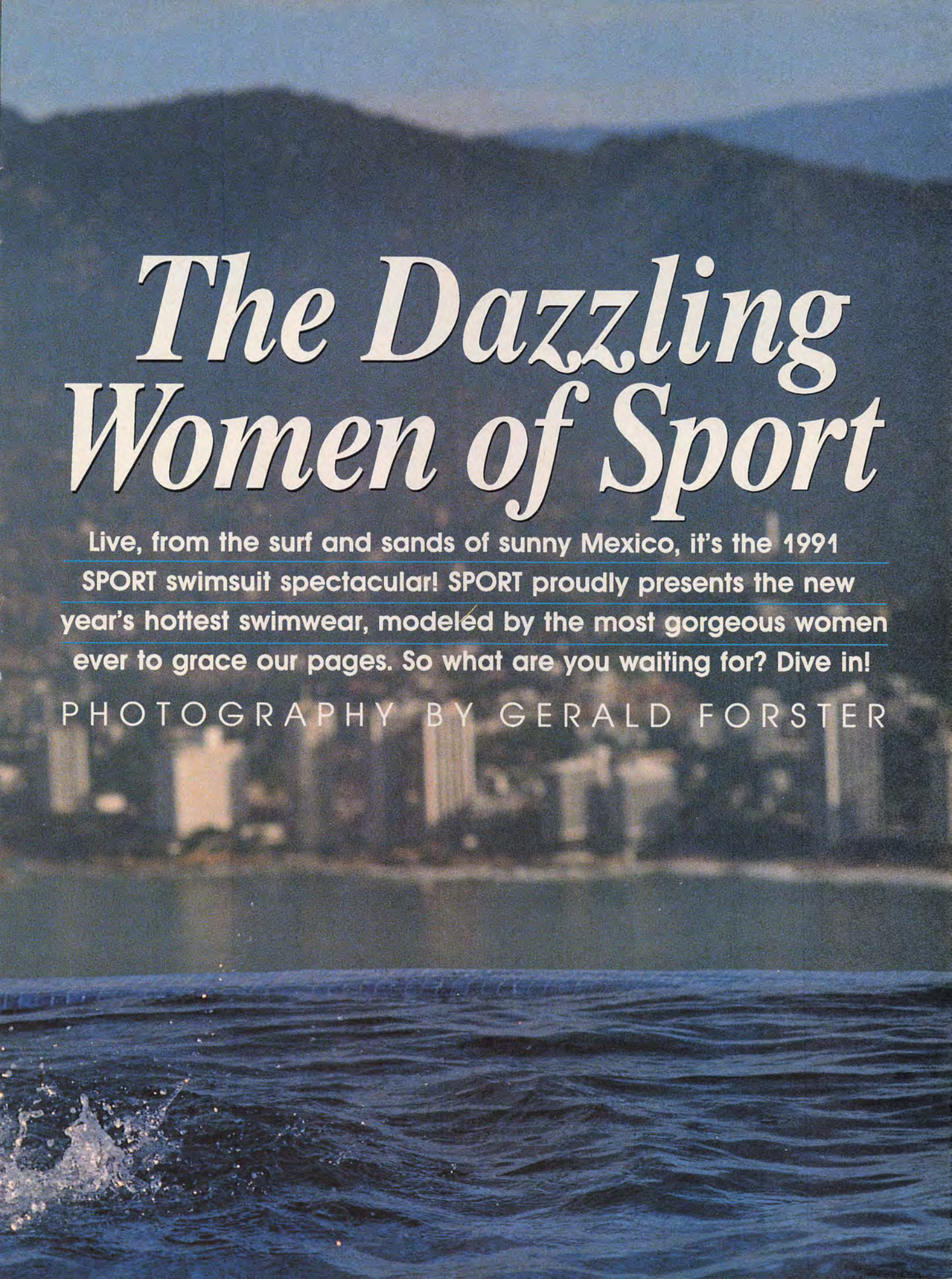
ROWANNE
. . . starting things off on a joyful note in a suit by *Ritchie*, with Acapulco shining in the background



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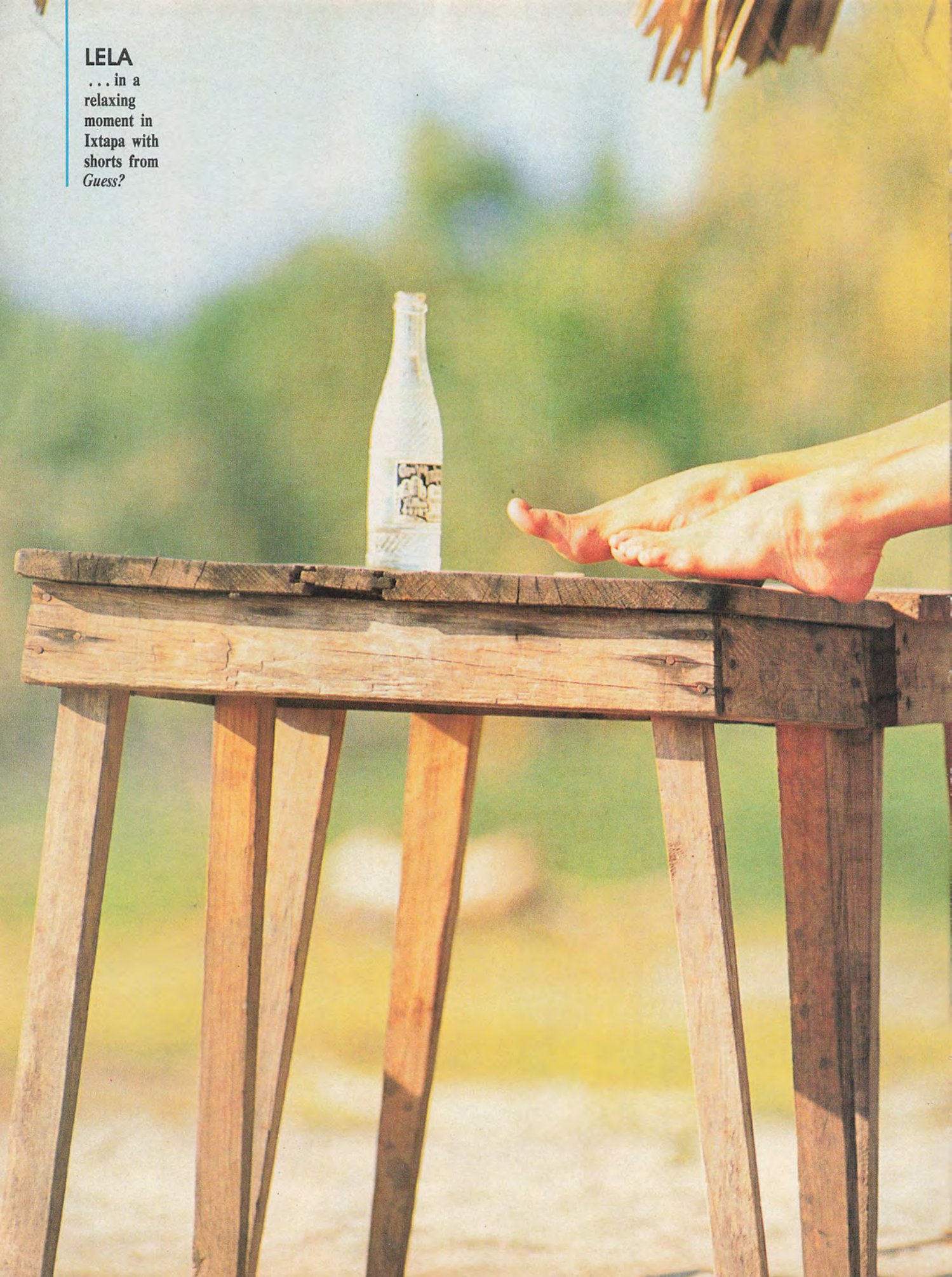
LELA
. . . fun in the Ixtapa sun outside the Camino Real hotel in a colorful one-piece from *Ken Done*

ROWANNE
. . . shimmering in the shade with a suit by *Gideon Oberson*



LELA
. . . in a relaxing moment in Ixtapa with shorts from *Guess?*

EVA
. . . frolics in the spray of the Costa Grande in a *Body Glove* suit designed by Robin Piccone

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. . . seeking shelter from the Ixtapa sun in a suit by *Liza Bruce*

ROWANNE
. . . staying in shape on the beach of Puerto Marques near Acapulco in a two-piece from *Shark Bite*

NADINE
. . . an alluring stare on Ixtapa's Playa Linda, wearing a two-piece from *Shark Bite*

EVA
. . . beams on the beach in Ixtapa, wearing a *Sessa* bikini

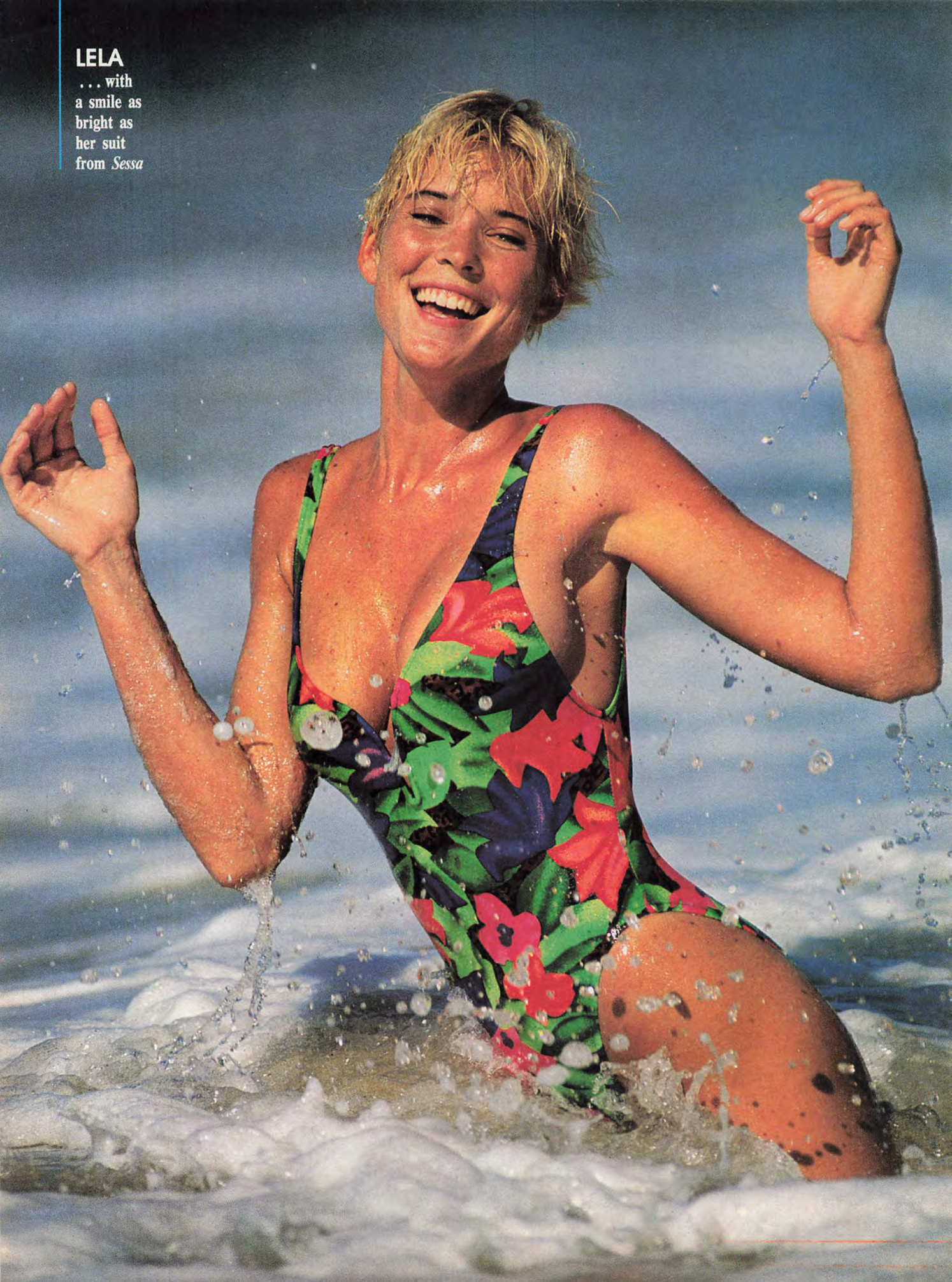
LELA
. . . sparkles in the shade, wearing a glittering two-piece from *Ann Cole*

BEER
Kirin.
The Mysteriously
Satisfying Beer
Of The Orient.
KIRIN BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED
12 US FL. OZ.
35.5 CL.
KIRIN BEER
Experience one of the world's three most popular beers.
IMPORTED BY KIRIN U.S.A. INC., NY, NY

NADINE & AMY
. . . adding beauty to the Guerrero coast with scarves by *J. Crew*

ROWANNE
. . . no strings attached with this stunner from *Ritchie*

JOELLE
. . . enjoys the pause that refreshes with a multicolored number from *Gideon Oberson*

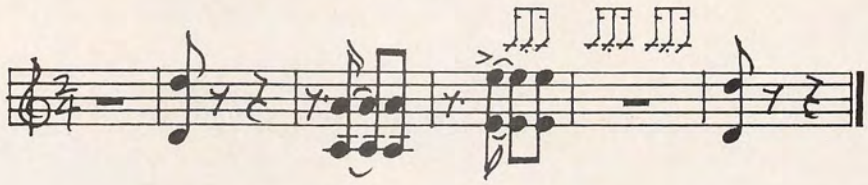
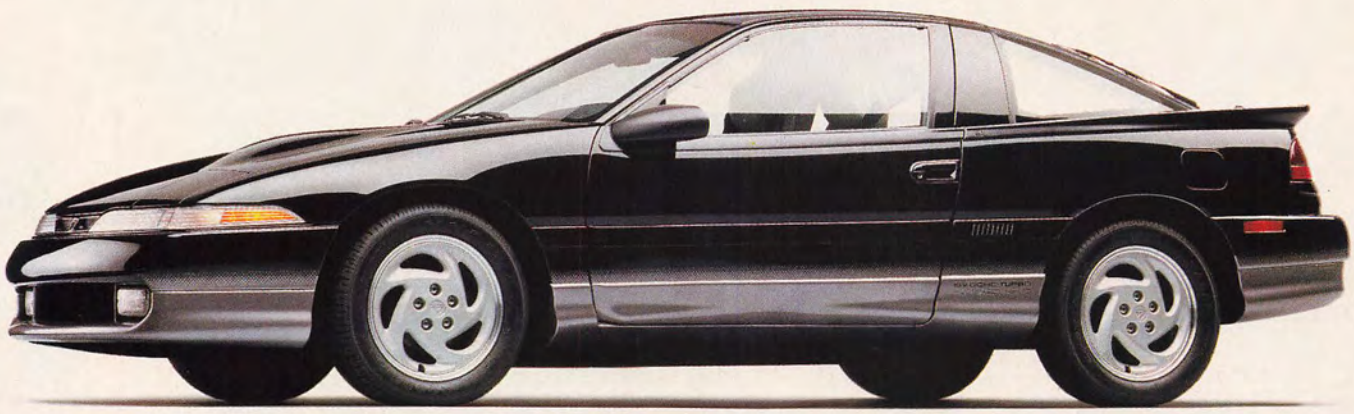


LELA
. . . with a smile as bright as her suit from *Sessa*

MAN: This Eagle Talon TSi and Toyota Celica All-Trac both have all-wheel drive. But the Celica costs about 4,000 dollars more.

OFF-CAMERA VOICE: What do those guys at Toyota take us for?

MAN: About 4,000 dollars.

(MUSIC)



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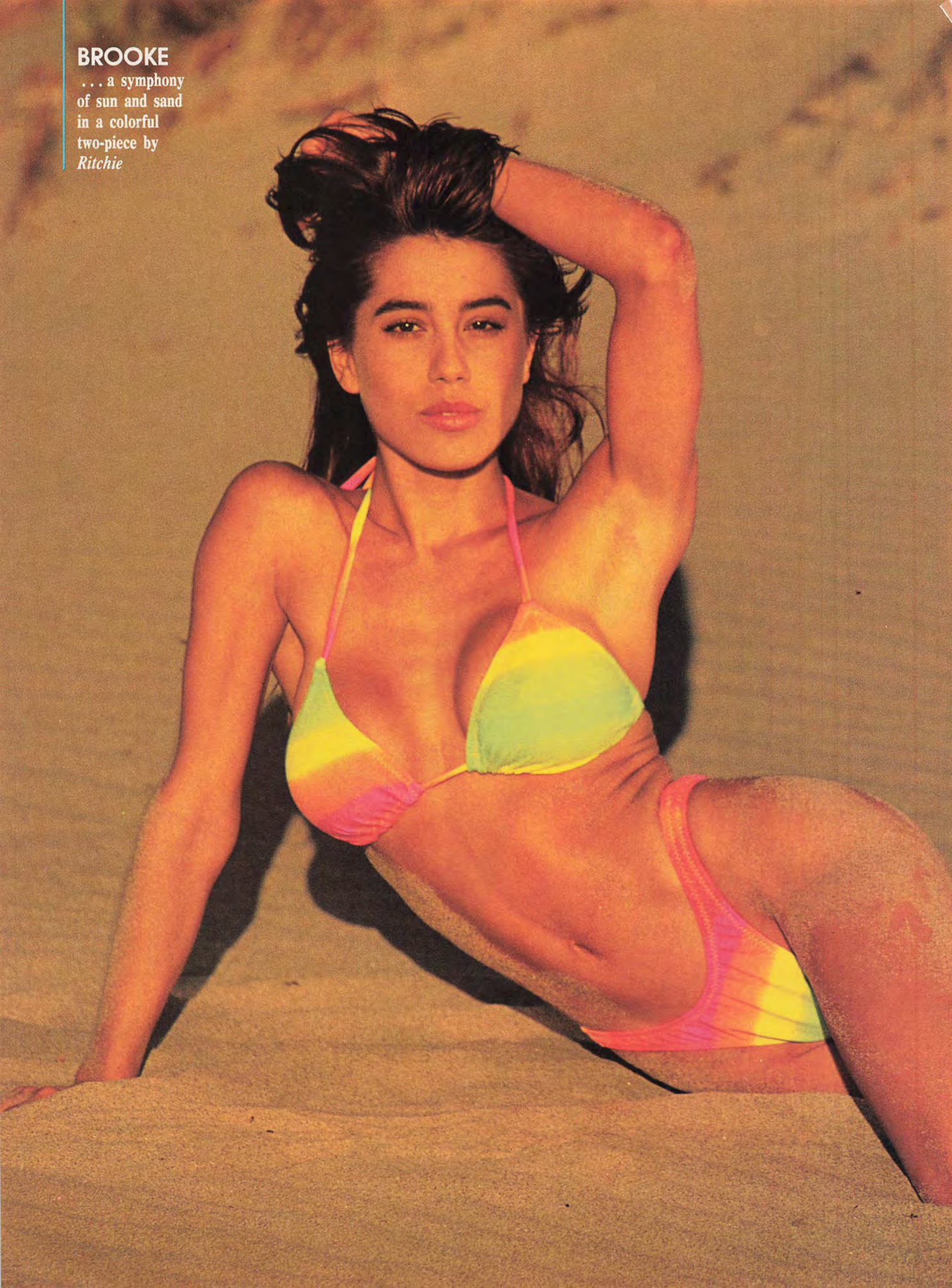
Chrysler's Newest Division

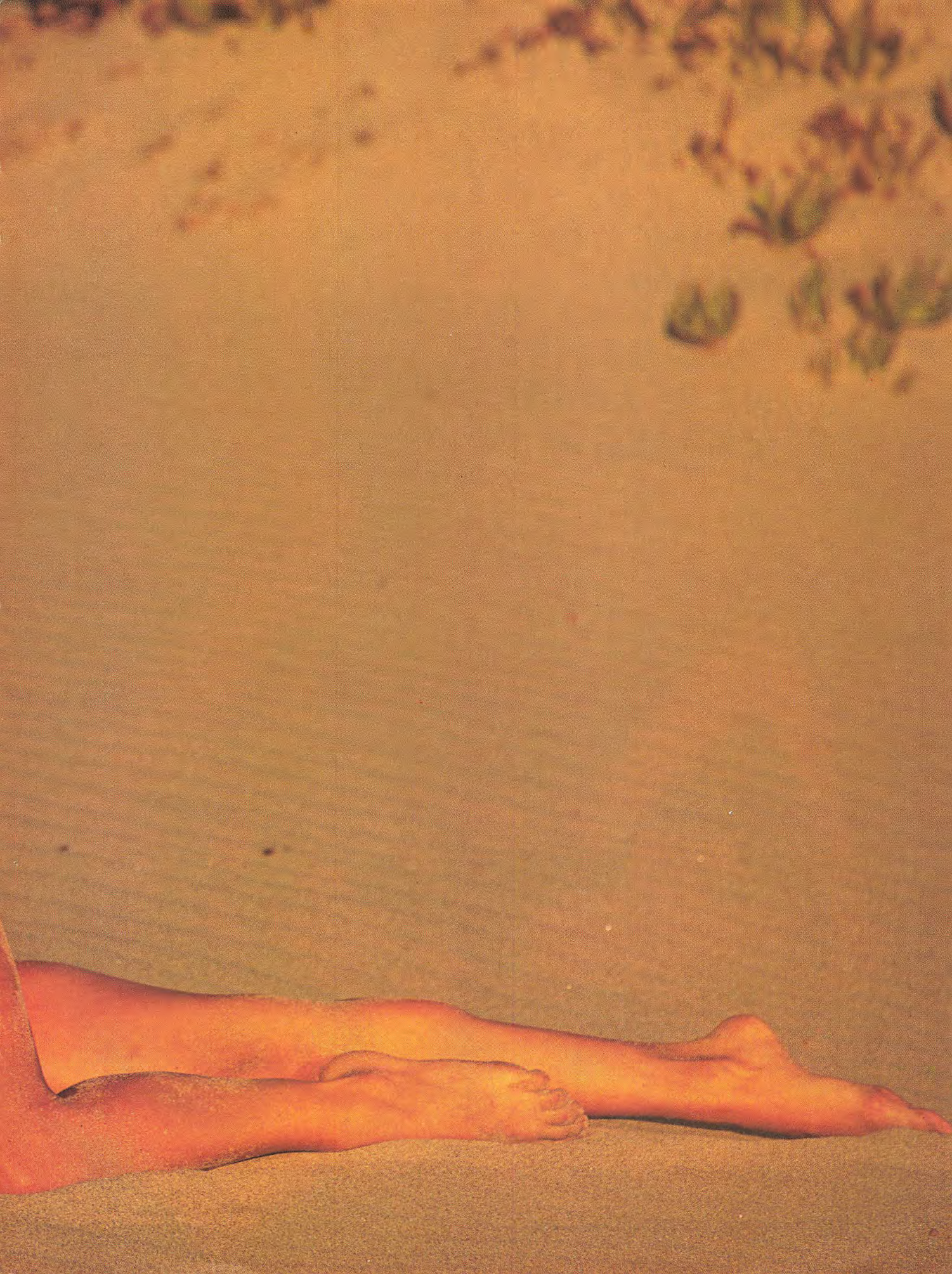
Eagle Talon TSi with all-wheel drive and 195 horsepower turbocharged, intercooled engine is backed by Chrysler's exclusive 7/70 Protection Plan. This plan protects the engine and powertrain for 7 years or 70,000 miles and against outerbody rust-through for 7 years or 100,000 miles. See limited warranty at dealer. Restrictions apply. Price claim based on comparison of sticker prices. For more information about Eagle Talon, or how to buy or lease one, call 1-800-JEEP-EAGLE. Buckle up for safety.

Jeep Eagle 7/70

ROWANNE
. . . in the evening surf at Puerto Marques, wearing a mesh suit from *Gideon Oberson*



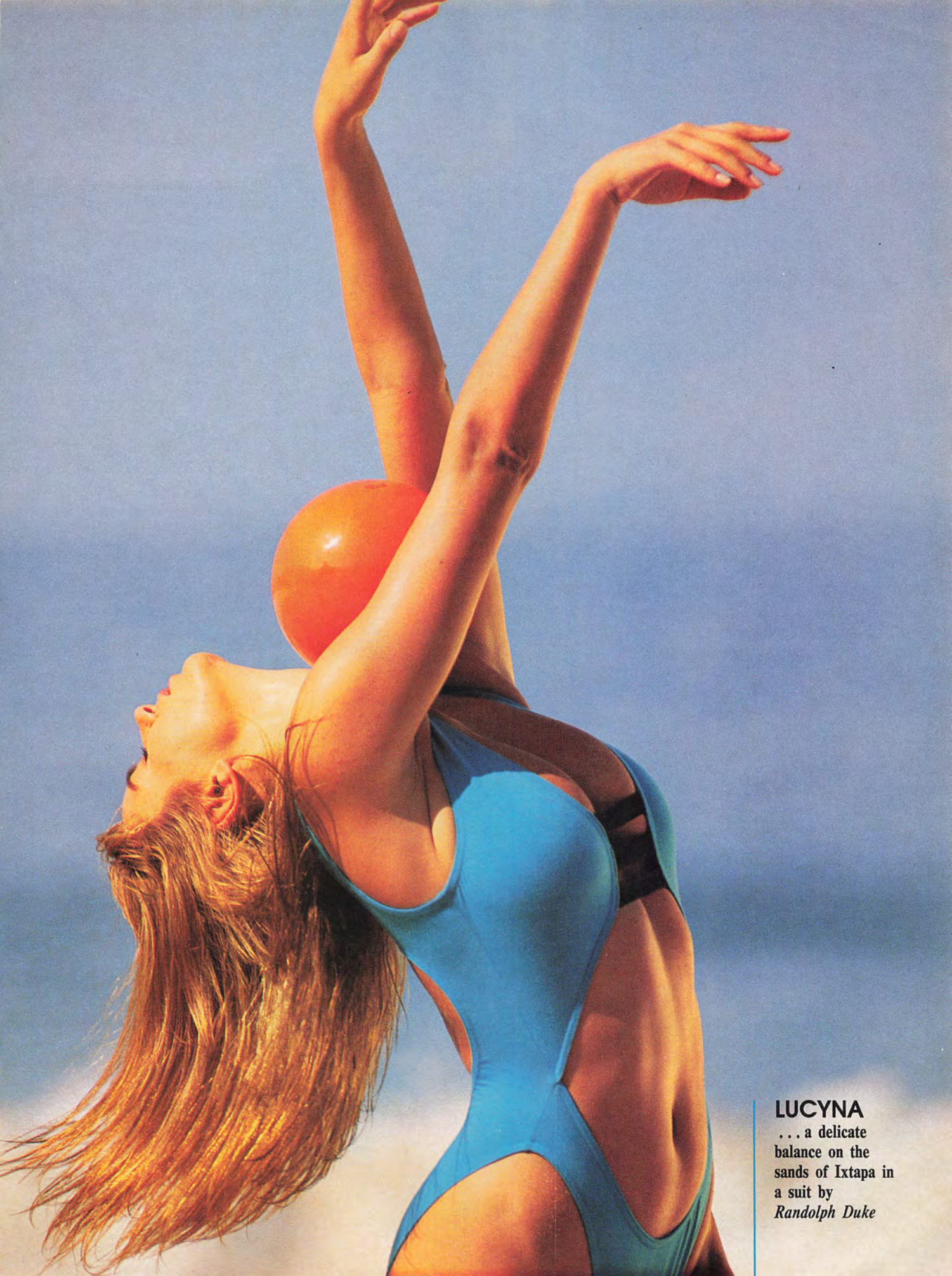
BROOKE
. . . a symphony of sun and sand in a colorful two-piece by *Ritchie*



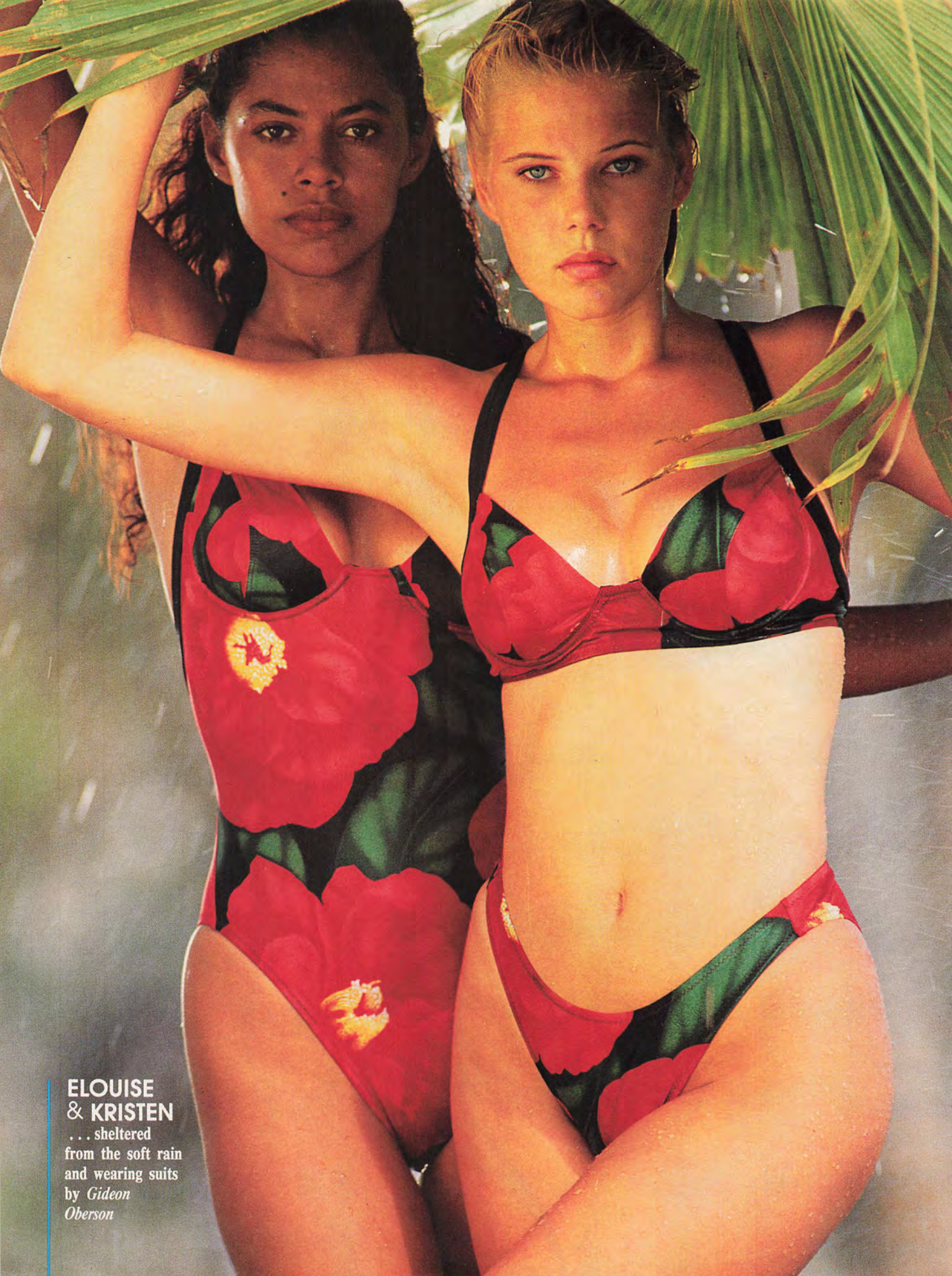
KRISTEN . . . settles in with a bright suit by *Sessa* under a sign that translates, "Welcome to SPORT"

JOELLE
. . . posed and poised on the Ixtapa sands in a suit by *Gloria del Rio*

ROWANNE
. . . soaks in the Acapulco sunset in a white mesh from *Anne Klein*



LUCYNA
. . . a delicate balance on the sands of Ixtapa in a suit by *Randolph Duke*



ELOUISE & KRISTEN
. . . sheltered from the soft rain and wearing suits by *Gideon Oberson*

ROWANNE
. . . Gazing toward the sunset in a Robin Piccone-designed suit from *Body Glove*

AMY
. . . keeping cool in a *Shan* two-piece at the Princess Hotel near Acapulco

ROWANNE
. . . gets in the mood at Puerto Marques with the bare necessities from *Gloria del Rio*

THE SPORT

Q&A

KEVIN JOHNSON

"If I can make it to the NBA . . . then I know I can do anything off the court."

Kevin Johnson, who's either the second- or third-best playmaker in the NBA, depending on who's doing the rating, signs autographs with a smile. When he exhorts youngsters to value an education, he smiles. He even smiles when presenting an opposing viewpoint to a referee.

All that smiling and joyful demeanor lead some to suggest that there's a halo effect at work here, that he couldn't possibly be this much of an angel. Well, he is—and he isn't. There probably isn't a nicer guy this side of Michael Jordan than the leader of the Phoenix Suns. But, hey, wasn't that little Kevin who scuffed it up with Magic Johnson in the opening minutes of a Suns-Lakers game last season?

Well, that's basketball. Consider, on the other hand, the St. Hope Academy. That's the $1 million community center KJ's building back home in Sacramento, a place where kids with a couple of strikes against them can go to avoid striking out. St. Hope is a place to play ball, but it's also a place where role models selected by Johnson provide lessons disadvantaged kids aren't learning anywhere else—lessons in values, in discipline, in education, in life.

Johnson could certainly teach the virtue of patience. He led the state of California in scoring as a high school senior, but few major colleges came courting. The Cleveland Cavaliers spent their lottery pick on him in the 1987 draft, but the city ridiculed the selection, and Johnson warmed the bench behind Mark Price. The Phoenix Suns traded for him eight months later, to which the Valley of the Sun responded: Larry Nance for Kevin Who?

He's not Kevin Who anymore, just KJ, a tag used with affection around Phoenix. The team has topped the 50-win mark in each of Johnson's two full seasons in Phoenix, and KJ has averaged 20 points and 10 assists in each of those years. Some other 20-10 players in NBA history? Magic Johnson, Oscar Robertson, Tiny Archibald and Isiah Thomas.

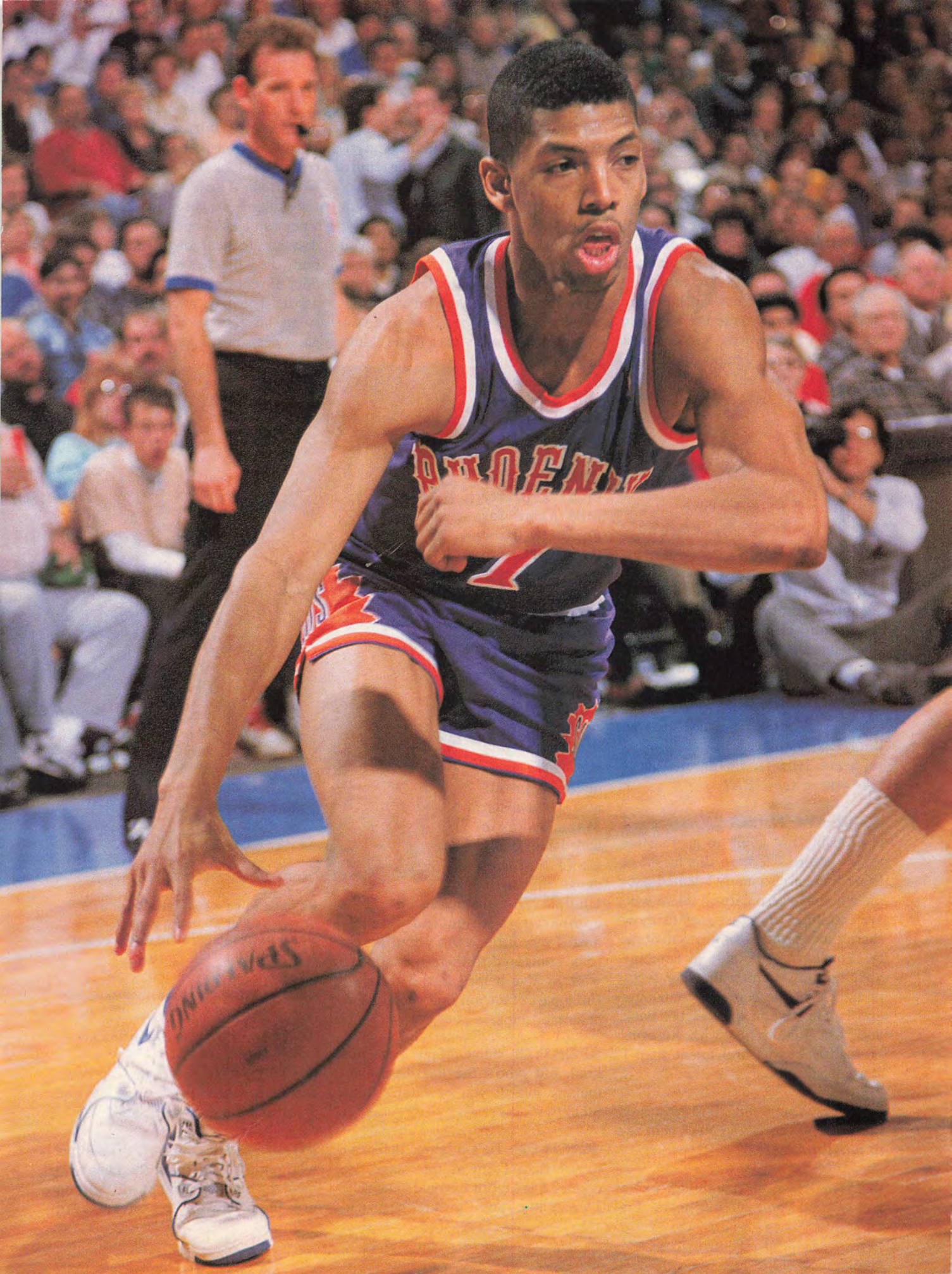
KJ is busting through the door of that exclusive superstar arena occupied by such magicians as Jordan and Magic. He's also attempting to lead the Suns to their first NBA championship, a year after upsetting the Lakers in the second round of the playoffs. And he's doing it all with a smile.

A facade? Let's find out.

SPORT: You played in your first All-Star Game last year, a game in which 210 shots were taken. But you were the shooting star who forgot to shoot. Why?

KEVIN JOHNSON: It was overwhelming. I was just in awe of everyone. Just being picked, being in the locker room . . . . I was like a big kid trying to disguise it, sunglasses on, looking around at all the players. Sitting next to Akeem on one side and Clyde Drexler on the other, and sitting right across from Earvin Johnson. To me, it was unbelievable. I shot the ball one time, just because I had a layup. I don't know if I ever

INTERVIEW BY BILL SHAIKIN



really loosened up around the guys.

SPORT: Why so overwhelmed?

JOHNSON: All of that happened to me at—well, I can't say a ripe age—but an older age—my third year in the NBA. I didn't make an All-American team. I never got invited to the four- and five-star camps or the McDonald's team or anything like that. I never made the Olympic team. The people from Georgetown and the Big East schools and everybody that leads the nation, they're all assembled in one spot to try out for an all-star team. I'd never been in that situation. It happened at the level of the NBA, where it was like, whoa . . . . It was just amazing.

"To be compared to [Magic and Isiah] individually means very little at this point. I want to be compared to them because I've won . . . NBA championships."

SPORT: Your drive-and-dish is so fluid, it looks like a work of all-natural talent. How far can natural talent take you in the NBA?

JOHNSON: Natural talent by itself is probably not going to go that far unless you're 7 feet. In this league, I think there are so many talented people who have zero natural talent who are excelling. That just goes to show there's more to it than physical ability. You have to be able to combine your natural talent with other types of things on the court to contribute and be effective in this league. Each year, I'm going to play with, hopefully, a little less natural talent than I started out with.

SPORT: Time out. Did you say there are players in the NBA *with zero natural talent*?

JOHNSON: Yeah [laughing], we've got two of them on our team—Ed Nealy and Kurt Rambis. I mean, not *zero* natural talent. We kid them, but they don't have tons of natural physical ability out there on the court. They have a great understanding of the game, and what they lack physically, they try to make up mentally.

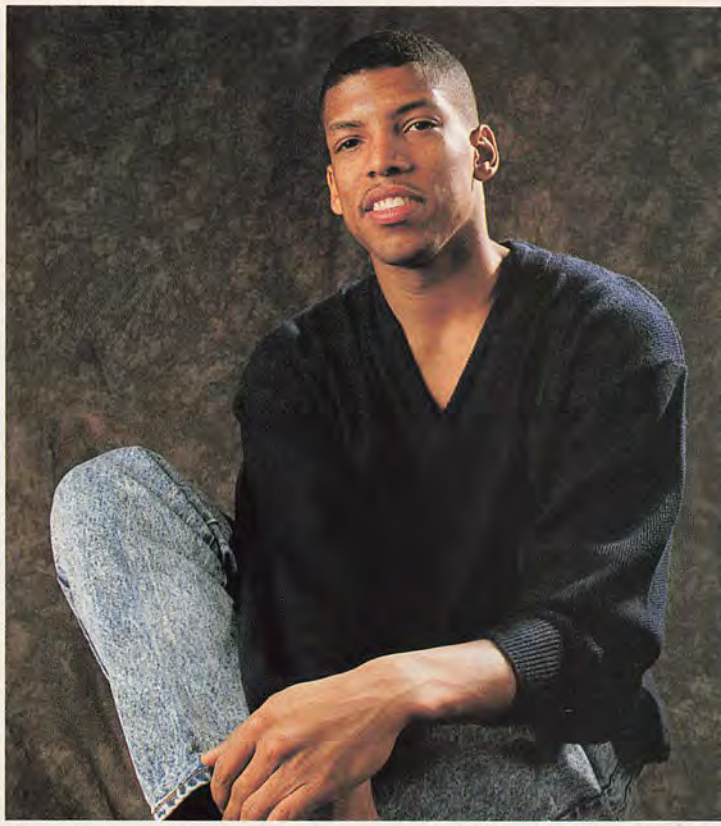
Bird doesn't have tons of what you could call natural talent. He's not fast. He's not a great jumper. And those are things that most people think we need to be effective in the NBA. You have to have those things in your arsenal, but he doesn't, and he's been MVP of the league.

SPORT: You've made a pretty nice name for yourself. How do you relate to your emergence among the NBA's elite and your membership in the 20-10 club?

JOHNSON: When I'm compared to the guys who have averaged 20 points and 10 assists, Magic Johnson and Isiah really stand out because they won multiple NBA championships. To be compared to them individually means very little at this point. I want to be compared to them because I've won, or I've helped lead a team, or I'm a part of a team that's won NBA championships.

SPORT: Of course, Magic's one of a kind, but who's the next-best playmaking guard: you or Utah's John Stockton?

JOHNSON: He's a better defensive player than I am at this stage. He creates a lot more havoc defensively. I would like—and I'm sure the coaching staff would like—for me to become as disruptive on defense as John Stockton is. I think, in our offense, we look to score a little bit more, to be a little more creative than they might [expect out of Stockton]. They run a two-man game, and John does an excellent job of getting everybody the ball. He's on a team without a lot of scorers and leads the NBA in assists. That says a lot about his ability to hit the open man and make good decisions. I look to score more.



ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/NBA PHOTOS

He used to be Kevin Who. Now he's known as just KJ, a tag used with sincere affection around Phoenix and NBA circles.

That's probably the big difference.

SPORT: When you're driving down the lane, who's the last center you want to see step toward you?

JOHNSON: Hmmm . . . the ones who jump the best and the ones who have the best reaction. Mark West on my team would be one. David

You know they can play. What else do you know?

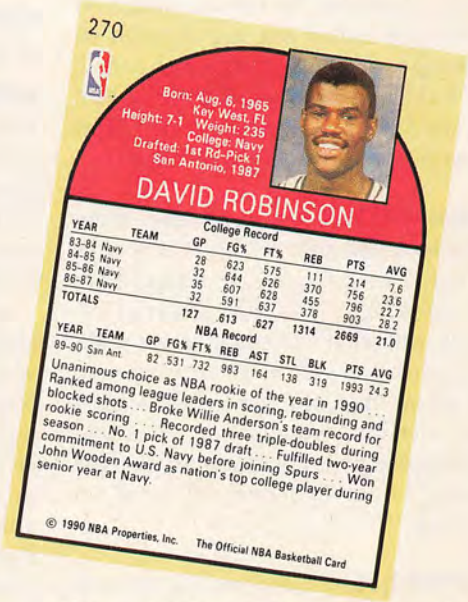
Named NBA's best sixth man in which two seasons?

Has appeared in how many All-Star games?

Led the NBA in rebounding in what year?

Where did he play college ball?

What is his middle name?


270
Born: Aug. 6, 1965
Key West, FL
Height: 7-1
Weight: 235
College: Navy
Drafted: 1st Rd-Pick 1
San Antonio, 1987
DAVID ROBINSON
College Record
YEAR TEAM GP FG% FT% REB PTS AVG
83-84 Navy 28 623 576 111 214 7.6
84-85 Navy 32 644 626 370 756 23.6
85-86 Navy 35 607 628 455 796 22.7
86-87 Navy 32 591 637 378 903 28.2
TOTALS 127 .613 .627 1314 2669 21.0
NBA Record
YEAR TEAM GP FG% FT% REB AST STL BLK PTS AVG
89-90 San Ant. 82 .531 .732 983 164 138 319 1993 24.3
Unanimous choice as NBA rookie of the year in 1990 . . . Ranked among league leaders in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots . . . Broke Willie Anderson's team record for rookie scoring . . . Recorded three triple-doubles during season . . . No. 1 pick of 1987 draft . . . Fulfilled two-year commitment to U.S. Navy before joining Spurs . . . Won John Wooden Award as nation's top college player during senior year at Navy.
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Robinson, Akeem, Patrick Ewing . . . those are the guys who, anytime I try to penetrate, time their jumps really well.

SPORT: Did you follow the NBA as a kid, when the league was down and almost out—the pre-Magic/Bird Era?

JOHNSON: I was always a baseball fan. I grew up with the Oakland A's. In '72, I was 6 years old, and I'd be out in the back yard throwing the ball up and catching it in center field like Bill North, [or] throwing it against the wall and being the shortstop like Bert Campaneris. I really brought that game to life in my own little world in my back yard. Magic Johnson, they say, grew up on the basketball court, being Oscar Robertson going one way down the court and Elgin Baylor coming back. But for me, it was baseball.

SPORT: Fourteen years after you were interested in the A's, the A's were interested in you—so much so that they signed you to a contract allowing you to attend summer school at Cal and play for their Class A Modesto farm team on weekends. How was life as a weekend shortstop?

JOHNSON: I just went down there one weekend after all, and I was 0 for 2 with two strikeouts. I hated to have to retire being 0 for 2 with two strikeouts. But what I did mostly was work out with the A's when they were in town, at the Coliseum. It was a good experience. At that point, I realized that basketball, I was hoping, was the route. I think I got baseball out of my system.

SPORT: How could you get baseball out of your system after two at-bats?

JOHNSON: Realistically, it wasn't the two at-bats. It was being in the minor-league locker room and living a minor-league lifestyle for two days. If I had no choice, it would be great. But, having a choice, even a college basketball program, with all the money, is on another level than the minor leagues. So it was more just living the lifestyle for one weekend and realizing this is what I hope I don't have to do.

SPORT: Did thoughts of baseball drift back into your mind while you sat on the Cavaliers' bench and watched Mark Price?

JOHNSON: Yeah, it crossed my mind. It crossed my mind more times than I would have liked. It ran back and forth across my mind. It wasn't like it was a fleeting thought. It was a new level, and it was my first time at that level. I had felt that if I couldn't make it in two or three years, that baseball would be the lot that I'd have to choose.

"[John Stockton] is a better defensive player than I am at this stage. He creates a lot more havoc."

SPORT: What made your reception so poor in Cleveland?

JOHNSON: The initial thing was, 'Why another point guard?' I guess they had a poor history of drafting point guards, and they felt this was another situation where they couldn't understand what management was doing . . . let alone [spending a lottery pick on] a guy they had never heard of. Once I got there and they saw my community involvement, they saw that I worked hard and played hard. Then they switched and said, 'This guy's a good guy. Hopefully, he can play basketball.' And before I knew it, I was gone.

SPORT: And your reception in Phoenix?

JOHNSON: Same thing. 'How did we trade Larry Nance, our all-star player, for three guys from Cleveland who we've never even heard of? Kevin Johnson, who never played in Cleveland; Mark West, who's a back-up; and Tyrone Corbin, who's a back-up—for our all-star, Larry Nance?' So they were a little bitter initially. Once they saw we wanted to win, played hard, were unselfish and had solid character, it changed over. If you do what you're supposed to do, you can dissuade people without too much real effort other than being yourself.

SPORT: Now they're falling over themselves to enter contests in which the winners get dream dates with Kevin Johnson. What's it like, Mr. Phoenix?

JOHNSON: That's all exciting and

Is Johnson a better point guard than Utah's John Stockton? KJ scores more, but Stockton plays the tougher D.

ANDREW D. BERSTEIN/NBA PHOTOS

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fun and dandy, and it means a lot to the fans. I guess it does a little bit for our egos, and it's flattering to a certain extent, but I think we do a good job of putting it in perspective. Ten years from now, when we can't run up and down the court and score a lot of points and make the fans come out of their seats, the perception of

"When kids don't have a lot of positive role models, then I think we all should really try to accept that responsibility.... It really discourages me when athletes don't want to."

the role of us as players is going to change. The relationship between the fans and Kevin Johnson, the player, is going to change. Hopefully, there will be a relationship between the fans and Kevin Johnson, the person.

SPORT: In an era when many athletes shy away from serving as role models, why is community involvement so important to you?

JOHNSON: I think if you care and you realistically assess your role as an athlete, you'll realize that we mean so much to kids. And when kids don't have a lot of positive role models, then I think we all should really try to accept that responsibility. I know a lot of people don't want to, but I think it's something that they have to accept. It comes with the territory. It really discourages me when athletes don't want to accept that responsibility.

SPORT: How did you get the idea for the St. Hope Academy project?

JOHNSON: Basically, I was trying to figure out why I made it out of the ghetto and everyone else didn't. What it came down to is that I had a strong family core, a nucleus that gave me the love and encouragement that I think so many people take for granted. But people in these ghettoes, where drugs permeate the whole environment, where there are single-parent families and people on drugs and no incentive for education, they're missing that nucleus, the family support that I had. And I think that's why I made it out, comparing myself and my lifestyle to those who were my friends at the time.

I'm really trying to create a home-like environment in St. Hope Academy. If we have a home-like environment, I think these kids can excel. I really do. If they have people who love them unconditionally, if they have people who stress education, if they have people who force discipline on them and help them to make the right decisions, sooner or later they'll be able to do the same thing.

SPORT: You could capitalize on your fame and get St. Hope rolling by lending your name to the project, appearing at fund-raising dinners, auctioning autographed jerseys and so on. Why don't you take that route and hire someone else to run the day-to-day operation?

JOHNSON: Because it's something I really believe in, and it's something from the heart. Any time you have something from the heart, you can't pass your vision into someone else's hands. If you have a vision, you have to hold onto it. You have to create it. You have to make it happen. Then if it's successful, you can step away. Initially, I just felt there was no way that I could let somebody else do something that I believed this much in.

SPORT: How difficult have you found it turning St. Hope from dream into reality?

JOHNSON: That, to me, was easier than making the NBA. The NBA is a dream, but the odds are much more against you reaching that type of goal than to create something that your community can be proud to be a part of. I did something as an athlete that really helped me say, 'I can do anything as a person.' If I can make it to the NBA by working hard, staying focused and keeping grounded in my faith . . . then I *know* I can do anything off the court. ★

MIKE MOORE

"There are so many talented people [in the NBA] who have zero natural talent." But KJ isn't one of them.

Bill Shaikin, a sportswriter for the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, played on the same intramural softball team with Kevin Johnson at the University of California.

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- ☐ INGRAM M-11 SEMI-AUTOMATIC
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12-13 correct: Sports genius
9-11 correct: Good fan
6-8 correct: Working too hard
3-5 correct: To the showers
0-2 correct: Try knitting

SPORT MAGAZINE

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BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

1 On what NBA championship team did Georgetown University head coach John Thompson (pictured) once play?

2 Prior to the 1990 season, which NFL team had won the most televised Monday-night games?
A. Oakland/ L.A. Raiders
B. Dallas Cowboys
C. Washington Redskins
D. San Francisco 49ers

3 Who was the last major-league baseball player to lead the league in triples and home runs in the same year?

4 Safeties have been a rarity in Super Bowl plays, but one team has two of the four scored. Name that team.
A. New York Giants
B. Green Bay Packers
C. Oakland/L.A. Raiders
D. Pittsburgh Steelers

5 Who led the NCAA Division I in rebounding in the 1989-90 season?

STUMPER

Name the two players the Boston Celtics traded in order to secure the draft rights to Bill Russell.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Boston Celtics (1964-65 and '65-66) 2. L.A./ Oakland Raiders (27-6-1) 3. Jim Rice (He had 15 and 46, respectively, in 1978) 4. D Pittsburgh (one each vs. Minnesota in Super Bowl IX and Dallas in Super Bowl X) 5. Anthony Bonner (He had 13.8 rpg for St. Louis) 6. C (Unitas had 47 while a member of the Baltimore Colts from 1956-60) 7. Ivy League (Princeton allowed just 51.0 points per game) 8. D (Walker ran 98 yards for a touchdown in Super Bowl XVII) 9. A 10. C (They averaged 95.2 on offense; 99.4 on defense) 11. Oakland Athletics (nine) 12. Randy White and Harvey Martin of the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XII 13. 1978-79 Seattle SuperSonics

6 Who holds the career record for most consecutive games with a touchdown pass?
A. Dan Marino
B. John Elway
C. Johnny Unitas
D. Joe Montana

7 Which NCAA Division I basketball conference had the team with the nation's best defense in 1989-90?

8 Which speedster holds the record for the longest kickoff return in Super Bowl history?
A. Bob Hayes
B. Stanford Jennings
C. Rick Upchurch
D. Fulton Walker

9 In Super Bowl XXIV, this player tied a record with two quarterback sacks. Who is he?
A. Danny Stubbs
B. Charles Haley
C. Karl Mecklenburg
D. Ronnie Lott

10 Name the only NBA team to score fewer than 100 points a game while allowing fewer than 100 during the 1989-90 season.
A. Detroit Pistons
B. Los Angeles Clippers
C. Minnesota Timberwolves
D. Philadelphia 76ers

11 Since the divisional championship series format was adopted in 1969, which major-league team has won the most division titles?

12 Only once in Super Bowl history have two players shared the MVP award. Who are they?

13 The Detroit Pistons won back-to-back NBA titles in 1988 and '89 even though no player averaged 20 points during either regular season. Name the last team before the Pistons to win without a 20-point gunner.

—Raymond Harper and William Ladson

JANUARY 1991 STUMPER ANSWER
Bill Veeck ("Name the baseball owner who introduced the exploding scoreboards.")

B. MILLER/BRUCE BENNETT STUDIOS

A BIG HIT IN CHICAGO

THE BEARS ARE BIGGER. THE CUBS ARE MORE LOVABLE. THE BULLS HAVE A GUY NAMED JORDAN. BUT THE BLACKHAWKS ARE THE WINDY CITY'S SOUL ON ICE/By Steve Rosenbloom

William Wirtz would like it to be otherwise, but he knows it just isn't so. The wealthy and powerful owner of the Chicago Blackhawks would love it dearly if his hockey team had the deified popularity of some of the other teams in this sport-crazed city, most notably the Bears and Cubs.

Those teams were beatified in the 1980s, at least in this city of broad shoulders and, according to one local columnist, narrow trophy cases. Chicago counts all of one championship title in the last 27 years, that by the Bears, the team that recorded the "Su-

per Bowl Shuffle" video and then backed it up by winning the damn game. Jim McMahon might be gone, but Mike Ditka's still here. Boy, is he ever. With endorsements and appearances and TV shows, it's a wonder he can squeeze in three hours on the Bears sidelines on Sunday.

The Cubs, well, they just happen to be the nation's—forget the city's—most lovable losers. Where else would you find a manager, Don Zimmer, endorsing Popeye's fried chicken and the NUTRI/SYSTEM diet program in the same division-winning season? Apparently, if you're a Cub, you *can* have it both ways.

Then there's Michael Jordan. If you haven't seen his face on everything from TV commercials to cereal boxes, then tell us, how was your visit to Mars?

Go ahead, pal, compete with all that.

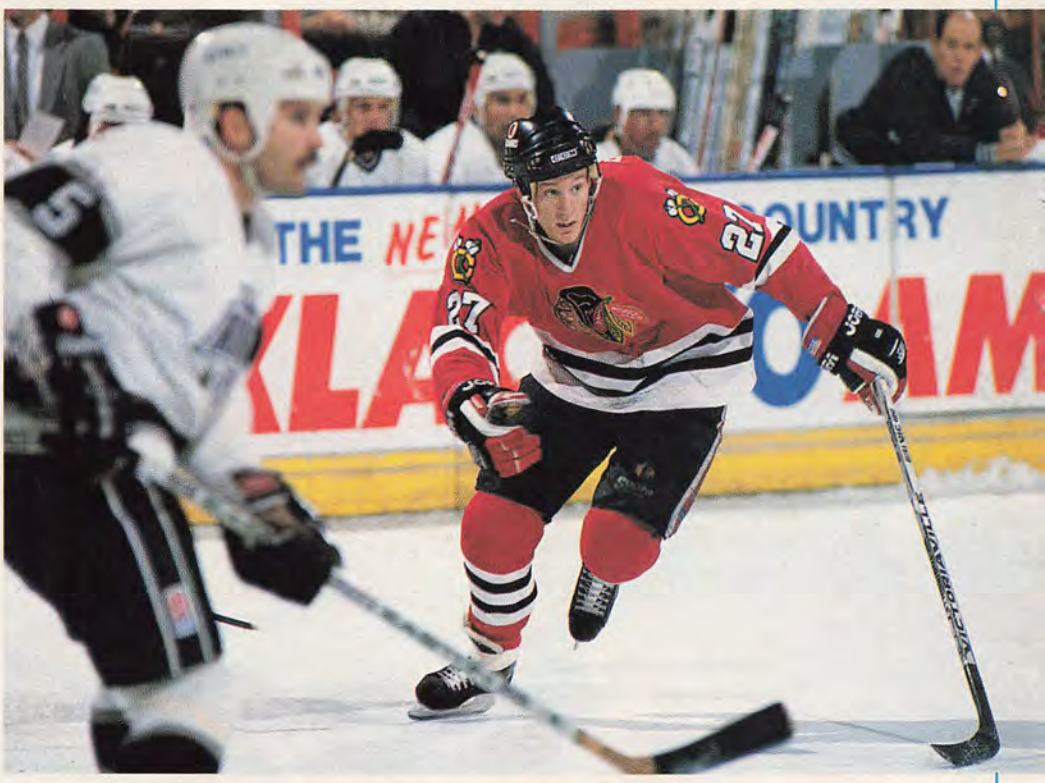
Wirtz wishes he didn't have to, and he knows that he can't, save winning a Stanley Cup for the first time in 30 years. Even then it's probably only 50-50. Maybe it's because he refuses to televise home games, even on cable. Maybe it's the perception that he wants his team to make money first, and make the finals second. Maybe it's something else. Whatever, the Hawks remain a cult.

"But so is Jack Daniels," says the owner, who ought to know, "and they sold four million cases last year."

This cult makes its home at 1800 West Madison Street. That's where you can find Chicago Stadium, if you can negotiate the neighborhood. This is not the safest of places, not if you value your life. Said one Minnesota player during last year's playoffs, "They ought to stop the bus five or six blocks from the Stadium. The guys who make it the rest of the way are the ones who are ready for the game."

Once there, though, you've found the best place to see a hockey game. The best place to feel one as well because no sporting venue rocks like Chicago Stadium during a Blackhawks game.

Start with the dimensions of the 61-year-old gray matron. Despite a seating capacity of 17,317, the Stadium is cozy, if not suffocating, with two balconies stacked on top of the main floor seating. The outer walls of the Stadium are no more than 100 feet from the ice, and the ice surface is 15 feet smaller than most NHL rinks, characteristics that create a nice little thunderdome when the fans are roaring over the Hawks' notorious hitting game. This place is all about noise. Relentless, deafening noise.



ROBERT BECK/ALLSPORT USA

Only two years removed from his high school prom, Jeremy Roenick is one of the NHL's rising stars.

No sporting venue rocks like Chicago Stadium during a Blackhawks game. This place is all about noise. Relentless, deafening noise.

The Stadium's signature is the ship's horn that sounds when the Hawks score, and with snipers such as Jeremy Roenick, Steve Larmer, Steve Thomas, Adam Creighton, Doug Wilson and Chris Chelios, that sucker goes off *a lot*.

"I remember the first game I played there," Buffalo defenseman Jay Wells says of his rookie season with the Los Angeles Kings. "I didn't know about the horn. They scored and the horn went off. I was on the bench and jumped into Marcel Dionne's lap."

The horn is accompanied by the massive-sounding Barton organ, which is built into the structure's rafters. Talk about feeling a beat. Supposedly, at full volume, the organ has the decibel level of 25 brass bands.

There's nothing "supposedly" about this: At full volume, the organ still couldn't compete with the fans during the national anthem.

That's when the noise starts—with the national anthem. Before it, actu-

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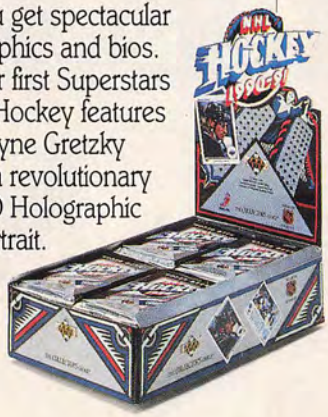

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ally. Cued by the organ, the fans begin a ritual common only to the Stadium. They rise and begin clapping and cheering before soloist Wayne Messmer gets to "Oh, say can you see?" By the time Messmer sings "Home of the brave," pandemonium.

The tradition began during the Campbell Conference finals in 1985. The Hawks lost the first two games of the series in Edmonton and returned home for Game 3.

"During the Canadian anthem, they were subdued," Messmer says. "When I started our anthem, they just exploded. I still get the same feeling today. It's become an event in itself.

It's showtime.

For all the noise generated inside the madhouse on Madison, it was the relative silence among Hawks fans last June that said a lot.

Denis Savard, arguably the most exciting player in the NHL the last 10 years and the team's third all-time leading scorer, was traded to Montreal for Chris Chelios. It was a swap of homecoming kings, Savard having been born just outside Montreal and Chelios a native of one of Chicago's south suburbs.

The next time Edmonton's Mark Messier tries to zap the Hawks' season, he'll find [Chris] Chelios' elbow in his mouth.

From a practical analysis, it was a perfect trade for both teams. The Canadiens, acutely aware of their demanding fans' desire to have a French-Canadian superstar and even more aware of their unforgettable decision to draft the forgettable Doug Wickenheiser ahead of Savard in 1980, wanted to return to the franchise's legendary fire-wagon hockey. Savard was going to be the lead horse.

The Hawks, after losing the Campbell Conference finals for the second straight year to a team that had its way in the Stadium, needed a defenseman who could move the puck and opponents with equal parts niftiness and nastiness. They got one. The next time Edmonton's Mark Messier tries to zap the Hawks' season, he'll find Chelios' elbow in his mouth.

The trade did a lot of other potentially great things for the Hawks. For one thing, rising star Jeremy Roenick would be given the chance to step into Savard's center spot on the top line. Just two years removed from his high school prom, the supremely confident and talented Roenick has a lot of Savard's offensive skills and a lot more passion for the physical side of the game that coach Mike Keenan demands and Savard sidesteps. Keenan likes guys who get their noses dirty, and Roenick's has had his broken twice already.

For another thing, Chelios' presence would no longer make defenseman Doug Wilson the Hawks' only irreplaceable player. Everyone learned that in a hurry. While Wilson and his deadly shot from the point missed most of October (he was recovering from ankle surgery), Chelios showed the brilliant poise in his own zone and the slick offensive skills at the other end that made him a Norris Trophy winner two years ago.

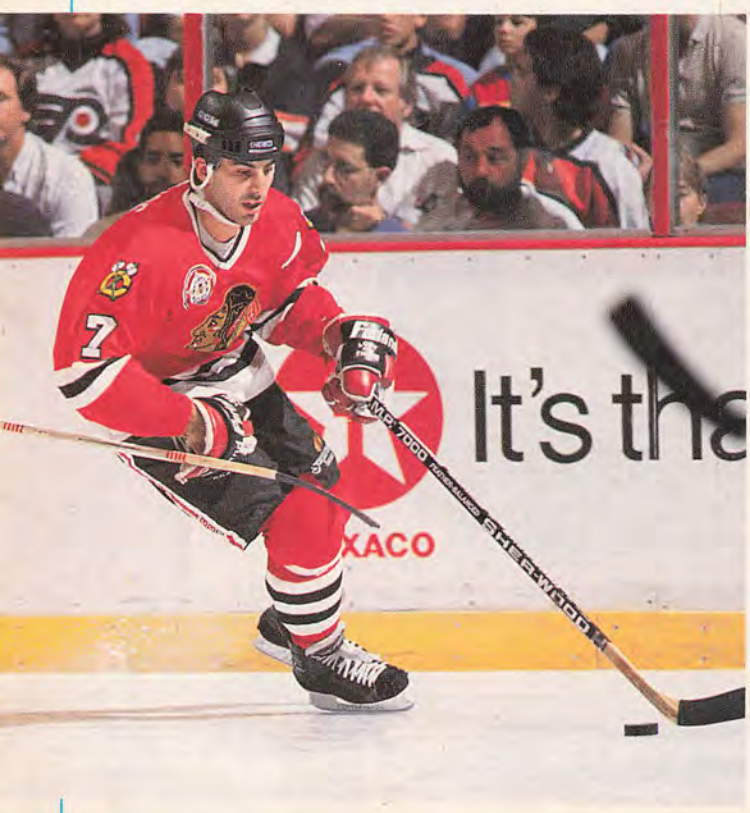
And for yet another thing, the players no longer had Savard as a crutch. When the team needed a goal in the dying minutes, everyone waited for Savard to get it. No more. Now everybody is going to own up to that responsibility, a situation that will make them all either better players or trade bait.

But from an emotional analysis—and Chicago fans are that first—the trade should've set them off. Here was a guy who lit up the Stadium with that dazzling spinarama move and piled up more than 1,000 points, a guy you built around, a guy who entertained when his team didn't. And here he was, gone. And nothing really happened.

"Fans in Chicago realized that two great hockey players got traded," Wirtz says. "It's a tribute to Chelios that people recognize his ability."

Fans in Chicago also realized who was running the show.

Mike Keenan never met a confrontation he didn't like. And every moment of



BRUCE BENNETT

Chicago needed a defenseman who could move the puck—and opponents—with niftiness and nastiness. Enter Chris Chelios.

"[Chicago coach Mike Keenan's] got NFL intensity in the NHL.... Every game is life and death with him."

his life is a confrontation to be challenged and squashed—from meeting with league officials again and again and again to get the Hawks' schedule just the way he wants it, to redecorating the team's offices. Doesn't matter what it is, Keenan wants to confront it and, more important, wants to win.

Keenan wins a lot—personal conflicts, power struggles, whatever. But what drives him, what presents the greatest confrontation, are hockey games. Any game. Every game. He wants to win. He has to win. And, most of the time, he does win.

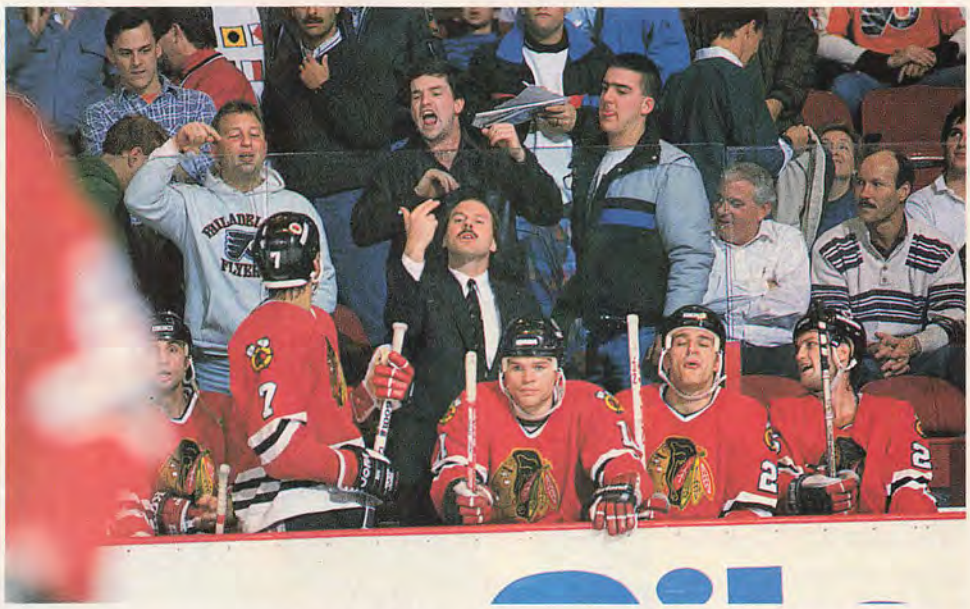
"He's got NFL intensity in the NHL," says Brian Burke, Vancouver's director of hockey operations and an admirer of Keenan. "If we played only 16 games, he'd win every game. Every game is life and death with him."

Don't his players know that? Safe to say that about half the team doesn't like him. Keenan can embarrass and humiliate players—not can, *does*—and he can get more out of them than they thought they had, certainly more than they expect of themselves. All in the pursuit of victory. And just in case his players are unclear on the concept, Keenan can remind them that he's also the general manager, a title and source of power he ascended to last summer. Now there's a hammer to hold over your players.

And just in case anyone had questions about who was in charge, Keenan needed less than a month to trade Savard, needed less than a month to convince Wirtz that the Hawks would be better off without the player who Wirtz vowed he would never trade. Talk about winning big.

For two seasons, Keenan and Savard clashed. Once, Savard tried to skate off the ice early during a particularly grueling practice. Later, Savard lost his team captaincy. Other times, Keenan benched him. They screamed at each other on the bench and in the locker room. *General Inhospitality* was a never-ending soap opera.

"Savvy used to electrify the crowd with an end-to-end rush," Blackhawks center Troy Murray says. "But in Mike Keenan's system, he's not supposed to do that."



BRUCE BENNETT

Make no mistake about it, coach and GM Mike Keenan runs the show in Chicago. Just ask departed star Denis Savard.

And now he doesn't, at least not for Keenan. The guys who play for Keenan throw the puck in deep, then splatter an opponent along the boards trying to get it back. It's simple, it's effective, and it wins.

But Keenan already knew that.

Now what? You've got a building that houses hockey's greatest atmosphere, but not for much longer. Chicago Stadium II is scheduled to open in three years, and while it'll have all the modern amenities that make owners a lot of money, it won't have the character, the feel, the sense of purpose that the original does. Chicago Stadium I deserves a Stanley Cup final, if for no other reason than to see if someone from O'Hare Airport calls and asks them to keep the noise down.

You've also got a coach who has won championships at every level. Except one. He's won division titles; he's won conference titles; he's won two invitations to the big dance. He's also sick of being the best coach who's never won a Stanley Cup.

And you've got a team that combines a dangerous offense with a commitment to defense—players who have been prodded and pounded by Keenan to reach the conference finals the last two seasons, only to lose to the eventual Stanley Cup champions.

"We seem to be hesitant to step up against those teams," Troy Murray says. "It's not something you can pinpoint. We just have to get into a mindset that we can beat Calgary and Edmonton."

There's one precinct—a very familiar one—that says the Hawks can do just that.

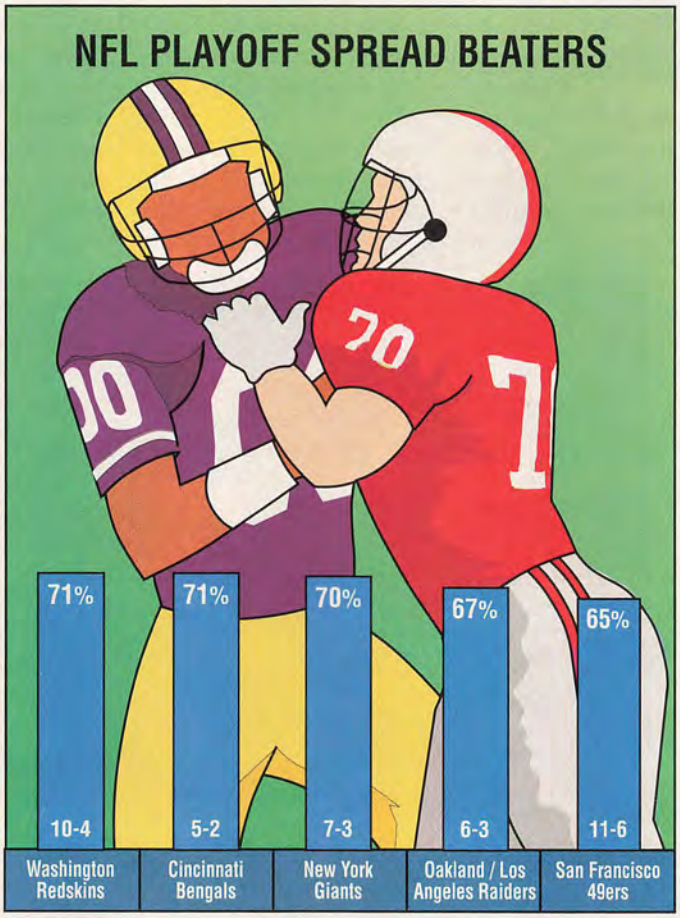
"It's a dream of every player to get there, and I think they're going to get there this year," Savard says. "I hope they win—unless we're there."

Might be a hell of a year for Jack Daniels after all. ★

PLAYOFF PROFITS

IN THE NFL'S POSTSEASON PARTY, A WINNER IS A WINNER, PERIOD

By Danny Sheridan



TRACY CALVERT JANTZ

Last year, we wrote that when betting the Super Bowl, you should ignore the point spread and just go with the team you think will win. We hope you followed that advice. The fact that the 49ers were a double-digit favorite may have steered some bettors to the Broncos. Of course, as it turned out, San Francisco could have been a 44-point favorite and still covered the spread.

What you should keep in mind this year is that the just-pick-the-winner theory holds up with the conference championship games as well. In fact, here's one of the most amazing betting stats of the last 10 years: In the AFC and NFC championship games during the '80s (including last January's games, which technically took place in 1990 but capped the '89 season), the straight-up winners are a perfect 20-0 against the spread.

If you combine the championship games with the Super Bowls, you'll see that the real-world winners are a remarkable 29-1 against the spread. That's 97 percent, and you can't do much better than that.

The one blemish? That was two years ago, when the 49ers beat the Bengals in Miami, 20-16, but didn't cover.

So pick the winner and don't worry about the spread. That sounds easy, but who'll be the winner? That, of course, depends on a lot of things. Here's a rundown of all 28 clubs and how they've prospered under playoff pressure in the 1980s. The years mentioned refer to the season played, though some of the actual playoff games may have taken place in January of the next calendar year.

ATLANTA FALCONS—The last time they made it to the postseason was in 1982, when they lost to the Vikings. In 1980, in one of the most memorable playoff games, the Falcons lost to the Cowboys, 30-27, meaning they were 0-2 straight up and vs. the points.

BUFFALO BILLS—They made it in 1980, '81, '88 and '89, compiling a 2-4 record, 2-3-1 against the spread.

CHICAGO BEARS—Last year was the first since 1983 that Ditka's Destroyers didn't appear in the playoffs. In the '80s, Chicago went 5-4, straight up and against the spread.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—They made the playoffs only three times in the decade but got to the Super Bowl twice. Overall, they were 4-3 straight up and a terrific 5-2 against the number.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—They saw postseason action in all but three years of the '80s ('81, '83 and '84). Their record? A frustrating 3-7 both ways.

DALLAS COWBOYS—The Cowpokes haven't seen playoff action since 1985. During the decade, they had 3-5 marks vs. opponents as well as against the number.

DENVER BRONCOS—Every-

HEY, HOMEBOY!

In postseason NFL play, the home teams have dominated in non-Super Bowl games. Over the last 11 years, the host club has gone 65-31 straight up for a winning percentage of 69 percent. Against the point spread, the homers are a healthy (and very profitable) 57-38-1, or 60 percent.

The home-field advantage has been most solid in the conference championship games. From the 1980 season through the 1989 season, the home team won seven of 10 AFC title games, beating the spread every time. It's even more impressive over in the NFC, where the home team was 9-1 both ways in the '80s.

Overall, that's a 15-5 spread record in favor of the home team. That's a 75-percent record, and that's a winner.

Why? For one thing, the home field advantage goes to the team with the best record—and that usually means the better team. And, of course, the home crowd makes a difference, no matter what the visiting players say.

body knows their Super Bowl woes, but the Mile Highers have reached the playoffs five times in the last decade, going 6-5 straight up, 5-6 vs. the spread.

DETROIT LIONS—They've been toothless at playoff time, making it that far twice in the decade and losing both times; however, they did beat the spread once.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—They went to the playoffs just once in the '80s. In '82, they beat the Cardinals before losing to the Cowboys. They were also 1-1 against the line.

HOUSTON OILERS—They've had three straight invites to the postseason party in the last three years and one back in 1980. How'd they do? A sad 2-4, both ways.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—They didn't appear in the playoffs until 1987. They lost to the Browns, 38-21, as a seven-point underdog.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Only one playoff game in the '80s—and that was a 32-15 shellacking by the Jets in 1986.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS—Though they haven't appeared in the playoffs since losing, 27-20, to the Patriots in 1985, the Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders were a profitable 6-3 vs. the line in the '80s.

LOS ANGELES RAMS—Georgia's boys are playoff perennials, having missed only in '81, '82 and '87. They went 4-7 straight up as well as 4-7 against the line.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—The last time Don Shula went to the playoffs was in 1985. The Dolphins managed a 6-5 record in the decade, 5-6 against the spread.

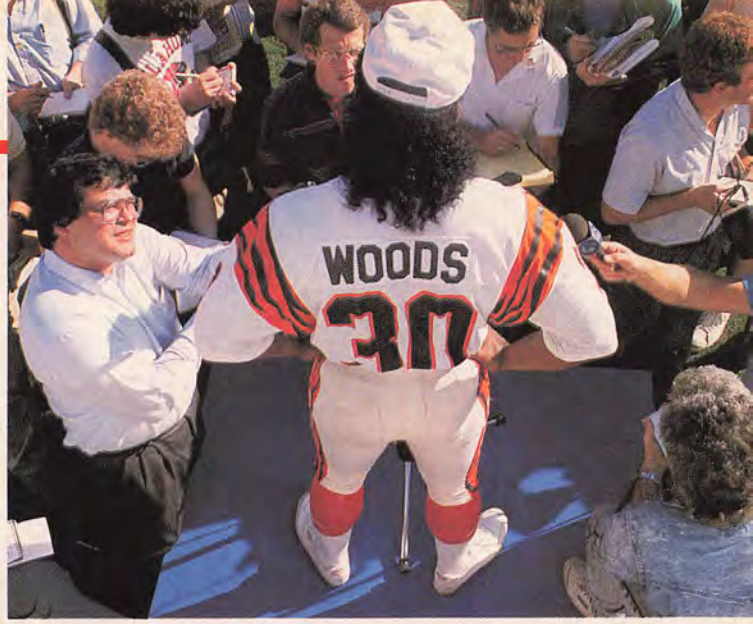
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—They've made it the last three years as well as in '80 and '82. Their 4-5 spread mark matched their real-world record.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—They've struggled since the Bears blew them out in Super Bowl XX, following the '85 season, when they made it that far by winning every playoff game on the road. Overall, the Pats are 3-3 both ways.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—They've been Ain'ts, with one 44-10 blowout to Minnesota under their belts.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Five playoff appearances in 10 years. Their spread record is an attractive 7-3 (6-4 straight up), and they look like possible 49er beaters this year.

NEW YORK JETS—In their four appearances in the '80s, the Jets were 3-4 straight up and 4-3 vs. the line.



RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT USA

Ickey Woods and the Bengals stand tall in the playoffs; they went 5-2 vs. the spread in the '80s.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—They're 2-4 both ways in the four years they made the playoffs.

PHOENIX CARDINALS—Only one dance in the postseason ballroom, and that was a disaster. The St. Louis Cardinals were blown out by the Packers, 41-16, in 1982.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Their appearance last season was their first since 1984. They also made the playoffs in '82 and '83. In the decade, the Steelers were 2-4 straight up, 3-3 against the number.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Three trips to the playoffs produced a 3-3 record straight up and a 2-3-1 mark vs. the line.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—The team of the '80s missed the dance just twice—in '80 and '82. In 17 playoff games, they were 13-4 straight up and a nice 11-6 against the spread.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—They have four playoff trips in the last 10 years and a record of 3-4 both ways.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Their two efforts in the decade were disappointing. They lost both games to the Cowboys by a combined score of 68-17.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—They were tough in their five playoff appearances, compiling an 11-3 real-world record and a sizzling 10-4 spread mark. ★

SPORT RATES THE COLLEGE CONFERENCES

BY TOM KERTES

In college basketball, the NCAA Tournament isn't the second season—it's the *third* season. The true second chapter is conference play, which will start in earnest soon. Regional rivalries run deep, and our annual rundown of the best conferences is a sure-fire argument starter. Here's our take on the top college hoops conferences in the land.

1. ACC

MAJOR LOSSES: Scott Williams (6-10 F/C, North Carolina), Dennis Scott (6-6 SF, Georgia Tech), Brian Oliver (6-3 PG, Georgia Tech), Elden Campbell (6-11 C, Clemson), Alaa Abdelnaby (6-11 C, Duke), Phil Henderson (6-3 SG, Duke), Jerrod Mustaf (6-10 PF, Maryland).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: Cliff Rozier (6-9 PF, North Carolina), Eric Montross (7-0 C, North Carolina), Rodney Rogers (6-9 PF, Wake Forest), Grant Hill (6-8 PF-SF, Duke), Matt Geiger (7-0 C, Georgia Tech), Cornel Parker (6-7 SF, Virginia), Willie Shears (6-2 PG, Clemson), Garfield Smith (6-7 SF, Maryland), Mark McGlone (6-7 PF, Maryland).

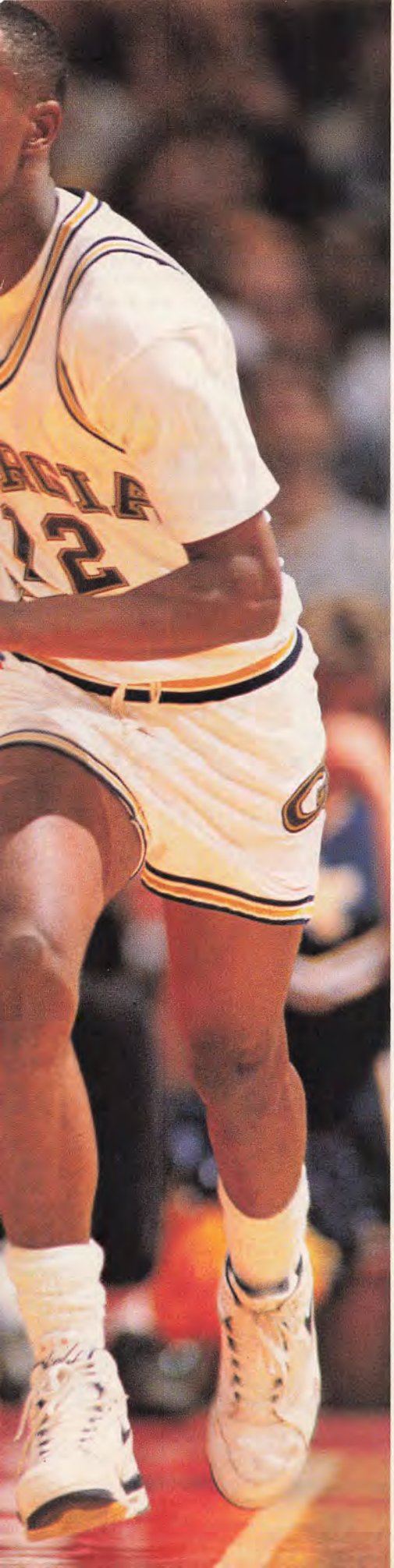
PREDICTED FINISH:

1. DUKE
2. NORTH CAROLINA
3. GEORGIA TECH
4. NORTH CAROLINA STATE
5. VIRGINIA
6. WAKE FOREST
7. CLEMSON
8. MARYLAND

Under the avalanche of the "ACC is down" warnings, SPORT was blissfully alone last year in predicting the primacy of the Coast. This year, we'll have company. Seven of the eight teams are excellent bets for 20-win seasons and postseason berths. And that's *after* losing seven draft choices, four of them first-rounders and one of them (Dennis Scott) a lottery pick. Land seven of the top 25 high schoolers—as the ACC did—and you can survive those losses.

Duke, while lacking its customary strong senior group, should find itself on top of the conference again come March. Forget last April's anticlimax—a quicker and more athletic group will play hoops the K-way, with sophomore guard Bill McCaffrey (a strong shooter on a generally non-shooting squad) a huge key. Right behind the Blue Devils is **North Carolina**, with an exceptional freshman class but

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM



nagging perimeter questions.

No. 8 in SPORT's preseason rankings, **Georgia Tech** was astonishingly absent from most other top-10 lists. Assuming our rival pundits are aware of one Kenny Anderson, we have to believe they've missed the NBA-plus potential of 7-foot transfer Matt Geiger. **North Carolina State** has the best starting backcourt in the conference, if not the country. Watch 6-9 Tom Gugliotta in conference play; he's a versatile runner with three-point range.

Virginia is a solid NCAA Sweet Sixteen choice, despite being ranked only fifth-best in the ACC. The Cavaliers' John Crotty/Brian Stith axis is sturdy. And we wouldn't bet against improving **Wake Forest**, where oft-injured but super-talented point guard Derrick McQueen's health is the key. The Deacons also own one of the best rookies in the nation in Rodney Rogers, a punishing power player who was the state's high school player of the year.

Elden Campbell is playing for the Lakers, but **Clemson** returns even tougher Dale Davis, the best rebounder in the rebound-happy ACC. Mercury-like David Young's improvement should ensure the Tigers another NCAA berth. And even **Maryland**, as certain a last-place team as there is in the country, will come at you with a premier backcourt (Walt Williams/Matt Roe). The Terps are an NIT-caliber team.

THE ALL-ACC TEAM: G-Kenny Anderson (Georgia Tech), **G**-Rodney Monroe (North Carolina State), **C**-Matt Geiger (Georgia Tech), **F**-Christian Laettner (Duke), **F**-Dale Davis (Clemson). **Player of the Year:** Kenny Anderson (Georgia Tech). **Rookie of the Year:** Grant Hill (Duke). **Sleeper of the Year:** Matt Geiger (Georgia Tech).

2. BIG EAST

MAJOR LOSSES: Derrick Coleman (6-10 PF, Syracuse), Mark Tillmon (6-3 SG, Georgetown), Jayson Williams (6-10 PF, St. John's), Boo Harvey (6-1 PG, St. John's), Carlton Screen (6-1 PG, Providence), Abdul Shamsid-Deen (6-10 C, Providence), Tate George (6-5 PG, Connecticut), Nadav Henefeld (6-6 SF, Connecticut).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: Adrian Autry (6-3 SG, Syracuse), Chris McNeal (6-9 PF, Pittsburgh), Sergio Luyk (6-8 SF, St. John's), Bill Curley (6-9 C, Boston College), Jerry Walker (6-6 SF, Seton Hall), Arturas Karnishovas (6-8 PF, Seton Hall), Dickie Simpkins (6-10 C, Providence), Charles Harrison (6-2 SG, Georgetown), Lloyd Mumford (6-0 PG, Villanova).

Kenny Anderson is the best player in the nation's best conference, but his Georgia Tech team is looking at third place in the ACC.

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. PITTSBURGH
2. GEORGETOWN
3. SYRACUSE
4. ST. JOHN'S
5. CONNECTICUT
6. VILLANOVA
7. SETON HALL
8. PROVIDENCE
9. BOSTON COLLEGE

The Big East is going to have to do it without much quality guard play this season. And considering that the too-short three-point line has turned college hoops into a guard's game, the Beasts of the East, despite excellent depth and oodles of great players, return without their minimum yearly requirement of Final Four contenders.

The tough pick at the top here is **Pittsburgh**, a 12-17 team last year and only 5-11 in Big East play. But the Panthers are the only squad to actually *gain* a top guard with the return of injured Sean Miller. Their chemistry will be better, as will their depth.

Georgetown, despite near guardlessness, should remain close to paradise. The Alonzo Mourning/Dikembe Mutombo inside combo is unmatched, but somebody is going to have to get the seed to them. The outside inclination of freshman guard Adrian Autry is the key for **Syracuse**. That, and franchise-talent Billy Owens' continued Magic-al play.

St. John's also needs somebody to ease the pressure on an exceptional front line. If sophomore Chucky Sproling can find the touch he lost somewhere between Colorado and Queens, the Redmen can contend. The best perimeter prospect on their roster is mystery freshman Sergio Luyk. **Connecticut** has the opposite problem. They'll rely on top guard Chris Smith and Microwave-esque John Gwynne—and, of course, that press—to make up for weakness up front.

Remaining the ultimate "almost" team, **Villanova** returns eight players from an 18-15 outfit and should again have OK talent that could play in the postseason but won't quite make it in this conference. **Seton Hall**, generally ignored by most preseason publications, has an underrated backcourt (Terry Dehere and Oliver Taylor) as well as a potential-laden front line of Anthony Avent and Arturas Karnishovas. From where we're sitting, P.J.'s Pirates are a Top 40 team.

On the other hand, **Providence** will have to wait till next year; its superb recruiting class was hurt by Prop. 48. **Boston College** also recruited well (Bill Curley could be its best talent since Dana Barros), but the Eagles still don't have enough oomph to soar at the Big East level.

THE ALL-BIG EAST TEAM: G-Chris Smith (Connecticut), **G**-Jason Matthews (Pittsburgh), **C**-

Alonzo Mourning, **F**-Billy Owens (Syracuse), **F**-Brian Shorter (Pittsburgh). **Player of the Year:** Billy Owens (Syracuse). **Rookie of the Year:** Adrian Autry (Syracuse). **Sleeper of the Year:** Arturas Karnishovas (Seton Hall).

3. BIG TEN

MAJOR LOSSES: Willie Burton (6-6 SF, Minnesota), Steve Scheffler (6-9 C, Purdue), Kendall Gill (6-5 SG, Illinois), Marcus Liberty (6-7 SF, Illinois), Sean Higgins (6-7 SF, Michigan), Terry MIlls (6-11 C/F, Michigan), Loy Vaught (6-9 PF, Michigan), Rumeal Robinson (6-2 PG, Michigan), Les Jepsen, 7-0 C, Iowa), Richard Coffey (6-6 PF, Minnesota).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: Damon Bailey (6-2 PG, Indiana), Andy Penick (6-2 PG, Michigan State), Arriel McDonald (6-2 PG, Minnesota), Sam Mitchell (6-9 PF, Michigan), Val Barnes (6-2 SG, Iowa).

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. MICHIGAN STATE
2. INDIANA
3. OHIO STATE
4. MINNESOTA
5. PURDUE
6. MICHIGAN
7. IOWA
8. ILLINOIS
9. WISCONSIN
10. NORTHWESTERN

"Based on what we lost and what we have coming in," says Michigan State coach Judd Heathcote, "it doesn't look like it's going to be a strong year for the Big Ten." True, relatively speaking. Ten players were lost to the NBA draft, five of them in the first round and three of them lottery picks. But it's a tribute to the strength of this conference that a down year means three teams, instead of the usual six or seven, will be in the tournament. And it still means a third-place rating among the nation's conferences.

Michigan State, **Indiana** and **Ohio State** are the Big Three among the Big Ten. MSU looks like Steve Smith and the Seven Dwarfs again, but that configuration was good for a lot last year. If they rebound better, the Hoosiers could reach the top as well; Bobby Knight had the team on an off-season strength program toward that end. The Buckeyes have their own frontcourt version of Steve Smith in Jimmy Jackson, and the only one of the league's six leading rebounders to return is Perry Carter.

It's behind the top three teams where the league's losses will be felt the hardest. **Purdue**, for instance, will sorely miss Steve Scheffler because coach Gene Keady's walk-it-up and pound-it-in style needs a never-miss inside scorer. But Keady's a master in creating something out of nothing, and he actually has a couple of reasonably talented players in 6-6 seniors Chuckie White and Jimmy Oliver.

Minnesota will rebuild around sweet swinger Kevin Lynch and the underrated 7-foot rejecter Bob Martin. **Michigan** lost just about everybody, but returns potential shot-blocking maniac Eric Riley and tough guards Tony Tolbert and Demetrius Calip.

Iowa and **Illinois** are mere shadows of their former selves. That's better than **Wisconsin** and **Northwestern**, who *are* there former selves.

THE ALL-BIG TEN TEAM: **G**-Steve Smith (Michigan State), **G**-Kevin Lynch (Minnesota), **C**-Acie Earl (Iowa), **F**-Perry Carter (Ohio State), **F**-Jimmy Jackson (Ohio State). **Player of the Year:** Steve Smith (Michigan State). **Rookie of the Year:** Damon Bailey (Indiana). **Sleeper of the Year:** Calbert Cheaney (Indiana).

4. SEC

MAJOR LOSSES: Chris Jackson (6-1 PG, LSU), Stanley Roberts (7-0 C/F, LSU), Alec Kessler (6-10 PF, Georgia), Gerald Glass (6-6 SF, Mississippi), Ian Lockhart (6-8 C, Tennessee), Derrick Miller (6-4 SG, Kentucky), Keith Askins (6-6 SG, Alabama), Derrick Dennison (6-4 SG, Auburn).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: James Robinson (6-2 SG, Alabama), Antonio Harvey (6-11 C, Georgia), Mike Hansen (6-1 PG, LSU), Gimel Martinez (6-9 F/C, Kentucky), Jamal Mashburn (6-8 SF, Kentucky), Wesley Person (6-8 G/F, Auburn), Bruce Elder (6-5 SF, Vanderbilt).

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. LSU
2. ALABAMA
3. GEORGIA
4. KENTUCKY
5. TENNESSEE
6. MISSISSIPPI STATE
7. AUBURN
8. VANDERBILT
9. FLORIDA
10. MISSISSIPPI

The Southeastern Conference, after an 0-5 NCAA Tournament in-your-face disgrace two years ago, returned so forcefully last season that eighth-best Vanderbilt went out and won the NIT. And the league will be stronger this year, with 18 of the top 23 scorers returning, 13 of the top 16 rebounders, nine of the top 11 assist men, and all top eight shot blockers. Every team returns at least three starters.

And those impressive figures don't take into account some impressive newcomers, such as **LSU** Division III transfer Mike Hansen, who at 6-1 will "replace" Chris Jackson. According to some sacrilegious tongues, Hansen may be chemically superior to Chris in the Tigers' scheme of things, which means he'll concentrate on getting the ball to Shaquille O'Neal. **Alabama** is also looking to a new guard (James Robinson) for its title hopes. There isn't a soul taller than 6-9 on the Tide roster, but these days, sinewy speed and overall team athleticism—major Alabama strengths—count for more than size.

Mystery giant Antonio Harvey—the 1988 Missouri Valley freshman of the year—transfers some intimidation to the already tough **Georgia** equation. He'll complement super-shooter Litterial Green on the Bulldogs. Huge (and hugely talented) freshmen Gimel Martinez and Jamal Mashburn will give **Kentucky** an inside dimension that even Rick Pitino couldn't create out of dust last year.

Mississippi State has all five starters back, including 6-8 Cameron Burns, who often refuses to miss shots for days. **Tennessee** will rely on an exceptional backcourt (soph Allan Hous-

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

Syracuse's Billy Owens is out of Derrick Coleman's considerable shadow in the second-best Big East, but Pittsburgh and Georgetown are favored over the Orangemen.

ton and senior Greg Bell), but the post game is lacking. **Auburn** owns some solid sleeper talent in point guard Ronnie Battle and freshman swingman Wesley Person, Chuck's kid brother.

As usual, **Vanderbilt** won't be as physically gifted as the top conference teams. The Commodores might have trouble going off the dribble and protecting the basketball, but NIT MVP Scott Draud can shoot with the best of them, and Davidson transfer Bruce Elder is a major talent. **Mississippi** will be Glass-less, but not entirely classless with returning backcourter Tim Jumper and '89-90 all-conference freshman Joe Harvell. The best additions for **Florida** will be new coach Lon Kruger and 6-7 forward Livingston Chatman, who quit the team last season, citing burnout. A rebuilding process is in the works.

THE ALL-SEC TEAM: G-Litterial Green (Georgia), **G**-Allan Houston (Tennessee), **C**-Shaquille O'Neal (LSU), **F**-Robert Horry (Alabama), **F**-Cameron Burns (Mississippi State). **Player of the Year:** Shaquille O'Neal (LSU). **Rookie of the Year:** Jamal Mashburn (Kentucky). **Sleeper of the Year:** James Robinson (Alabama).

5. SWC

MAJOR LOSSES: Lenzie Howell (6-5 SF, Arkansas), Travis Mays (6-2 SG, Texas), Lance Blanks (6-3 G/F, Texas), Carl Herrera (6-9 C/F, Houston), Tony Milton (6-2 PG, Texas A&M), Julius Denton (6-5 SF, Baylor).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: Isaiah Morris (6-9 PF, Arkansas), Dexter Cambridge (6-7 SF/PF, Texas), Albert Burditt (6-8 PF, Texas), Derrick Smith (6-6 SF, Houston), David Shivers (6-5 SG, SMU), Tommy French (6-5 SG, Texas A&M).

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. ARKANSAS
2. HOUSTON
3. TEXAS
4. BAYLOR
5. RICE
6. TCU
7. TEXAS A&M
8. TEXAS TECH
9. SMU

After the good old days of Akeem and Clyde the Glide, there was a lot of moaning and groaning in the SWC and a poor 5-13 record in the NCAA's from 1985 through 1989. But last year, the league woke up and sent Arkansas to the Final Four, Texas to the Elite Eight and Travis Mays and Lance Blanks to the NBA in the first round. The SWC's 7-3 tournament record was the fourth best in the nation, and its 73-45 interconference record was the best SWC showing in five years. The conference is still top-heavy. But its three best teams are among the tops in the nation (Nos. 3, 18 and 20 in the SPORT preseason rankings).

Arkansas will come at you with unparalleled team quickness. The Hogs are deep and boast two of the country's premier players in Todd Day and Lee Mayberry. A return to the Final Four is not unlikely if 6-9, 230-pound San Jacinto JC transfer Isaiah Morris helps the rebounding as much as expected. After losing two first-round guards, **Texas** will switch its focus to the front line, where 6-8, 230-pound Dexter Cambridge, another JC transfer, is spoken of in Worthy-esque terms. Prop. 48 sophomore Derrick Smith is the key to another good **Houston** squad that should shoot well, defend better and heave some treys like they were layups.

The rest of the league relies on some excellent coaching, a few (too few) outstanding players and a lot of wishin' and hopin'. NIT visitor **Baylor** has the league's best sixth man in 6-9 Kelvin Chalmers and a purified three-point shooter in David Wesley. **Rice** has a Twin Tower thing going; 6-9 Brent Scott, one of the SWC's top freshmen last year, will team with 6-10 Kenneth Rourke inside. **Texas A&M** is counting on an exciting new coach—Kermit Davis from Idaho—and some decent guards.

The strengths at **TCU** are 6-10 center Reggie Smith (who's showed some flashes of real greatness in his two seasons) and three promising JC transfers (Jody Bentley, Dan Dore and Mark Moten). **Texas Tech** boasts 6-7 Will Flemons, the first freshman to lead the league in rebounding since LaSalle Thompson. **SMU**, with its ever-revolving roster, can only rely on youth improving. But 6-5 David Shivers, the Texas 4-A high school MVP, appears to be the lone Mustang with a touch of greatness.

THE ALL-SWC TEAM: G-Lee Mayberry (Arkansas), **G**-Joey Wright (Texas), **C**-Oliver Miller (Arkansas), **F**-Todd Day (Arkansas), **F**-Craig Upchurch (Houston). **Player of the Year:** Todd Day (Arkansas). **Rookie of the Year:** Derrick Smith (Houston). **Sleeper of the Year:** Dexter Cambridge (Arkansas).

6. PACIFIC-10

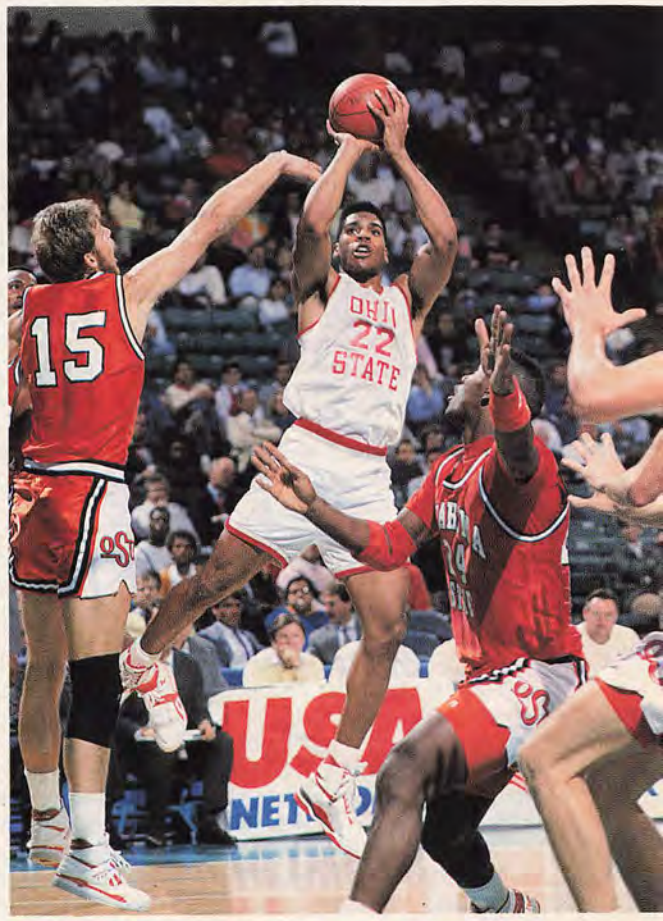
MAJOR LOSSES: Jud Buechler (6-7 SF, Arizona), Trevor Wilson (6-7 PF/SF, UCLA), Gary Payton (6-3 PG, Oregon State), Keith Smith (6-5 PG, California), Eldridge Recasner (6-3 SG, Washington).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: Chris Mills (6-6 G/F, Arizona), Khalid Reeves (6-3 PG, Arizona), Jamal Faulkner (6-7 SF, Arizona State), Stevin Smith (6-2 SG, Arizona State), Ian Dale (6-8 PF, Arizona State), Shon Tarver (6-5 SG, UCLA), Orlando Williams (6-2, SG Oregon), Mario Jackson (6-1 SG, Oregon State), Bobby Patton (6-0 PG, Stanford), Dwight Stewart (6-9 C, Washington State), Rob Corkrum (6-9 C/F, Washington State).

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. ARIZONA
2. UCLA
3. ARIZONA STATE
4. CALIFORNIA
5. STANFORD
6. USC
7. OREGON
8. OREGON STATE
9. WASHINGTON
10. WASHINGTON STATE

The Pac-10 hasn't reached the elite



DAVID L. JOHNSON

Jimmy Jackson is Ohio State's frontcourt wizard, and he should lead the Buckeyes to third place in the third-best Big Ten.

yet as a top-to-bottom conference, but it's getting closer. Its seven postseason bids (NIT and NCAA) were as many as anybody's, and the overall balance is on the improve. Three players were chosen in the draft, one of them (Gary Payton) a lottery pick. And now, Arizona State, USC and Oregon come up with scintillating recruiting.

Still, the top two teams tower over the rest. **Arizona** may well be the best team in the country; indeed, that's where SPORT picked 'em. The Wild-

cats' overall athleticism, down-the-line experience and surplus of quality big men should turn the rest of the conference into cat chow. Some instant maturity from frosh floor genius Khalid Reeves and an attitude adjustment by too-inconsistent Brian Williams could give the conference its first national championship since 1975.

UCLA is the other top-echelon team, and the Bruins were *right* behind Lute Olson's squad before freshman phenom Ed O'Bannon went down for the season. Still, the Bruins will be nationally competitive. It will help their cause tremendously if 6-9 Rodney Zimmerman can come back from preseason knee surgery and turn some of the 10-per-game high school shot blocks into some intimidation in the UCLA paint.

The gap to the next-bests is still too large, but it's closing. **Arizona State** should top the group with a fabulous freshman class. Well-coached **Stanford** has everybody back and a shot at third place if it can develop a three-point game. **California** is another candidate for third place, with Brian Hendrick back after an All-Pac-10 freshman year, a decent down-home defense and a tough trey dimension.

A team that *must* show improvement is **USC**. With Harold Miner and tough insider Ronnie Coleman, why shouldn't they? **Oregon**, led by the league's best little man, 5-11 Terrell Brandon, will try to repeat last year's surprise. They were picked to finish 10th and wound up fifth. Gary Payton's one-man team at **Oregon State** lost it's one man and also lost 6-10 Scott Haskin (injury), who has flashed some almost-NBA potential. **Washington** isn't without talent, but the Huskies just can't get it together chemically. **Washington State** will return to battle with a brand new team. After a 1-17 Pac-10 disaster, that's understandable.

THE ALL-PACIFIC-10 TEAM: **G**-Harold Miner (USC), **G**-Terrell Brandon (Oregon), **C**-Adam Keefe (Stanford), **F**-Don MacLean (UCLA), **F**-Sean Rooks (Arizona). **Player of the Year:** Harold Miner (USC). **Rookie of the Year:** Jamal Faulkner (Arizona State). **Sleeper of the Year:** Chris Mills (Arizona).

7. METRO

MAJOR LOSSES: Felton Spencer (7-0 C, Louisville), Jerome Harmon (6-5 G/F, Louisville), Cheyenne Gibson (6-3 SG, Memphis State), Bimbo Coles (6-1 PG, Virginia Tech), Irv Thomas (6-8 F/C, Florida State), Tharon Mayes (6-3 SG, Florida State).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: James Brewer (6-2 PG, Louisville), Herb Jones (6-4 SF, Cincinnati), Billy Smith (6-5 SF, Memphis State), Anthony Douglas (6-7 PF, Memphis State), Douglas Edwards (6-9 PF, Florida State), Jamie Watson (6-5 SG, South Carolina), David Whitmore (6-5 SF, Tulane).

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. CINCINNATI
2. FLORIDA STATE
3. MEMPHIS STATE
4. LOUISVILLE
5. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
6. SOUTH CAROLINA
7. TULANE
8. VIRGINIA TECH

You gotta love Metro basketball. Over the years, no other circuit has brought us more runnin', gunnin' fun or more high-jumpin' excitement. The World War III-intensity of the Louisville/Memphis State get-togethers has been the high point of several regular seasons. But lately, the loop has been slipping. Louisville was arguably the college team of the '80s, but it has dropped a notch, and the rest of the conference hasn't improved sufficiently. Right now, the Metro is in a delicate balance; every team except the bottom two has a shot at the conference title, but don't look for any of them in the Final Four.

The field is wide open, but if JC newcomers Herb Jones and quarterback Allen Jackson can come through, we'll go with superbly coached **Cincinnati** and its senior trio of Louis Banks, Levertis Robinson and Keith Starks. Another top contender is forward-rich **Florida State**; Prop. 48 sophomore Douglas Edwards and 6-7 Michael Polite are among the nation's best pairs. The Seminoles, however, need a big year from still another JC point guard, talented Derrick Meyers. **Memphis State** newcomers Billy Smith (an outside gun) and Anthony Douglas (225 pounds of inside mooseness) fit well into the Tigers' needs, but the jury's out heading into conference play.

And—gasp, shudder—why haven't we gotten to **Louisville** yet? Well, they're in the thick of it, but they'll need a better post game than they appear to have, not to mention more consistent play from star guard LaBradford Smith. What about **Southern Mississippi**? With their SPORT all-conference trio, the Golden Eagles would seem the logical choice to take the conference, but we can't see them soaring without adequate depth and a quality point guard. Hard-luck **South Carolina** can also be up there if A) injured Barry Manning returns as good as new, B) 6-8 Joe Rhett, with his irregular heartbeat returns as good as new, and C) well, you get the idea.

And then there were two. Believe it or not, **Tulane** entered its second post-exile conference season with the two top returning scorers in Michael Christian and Anthony Reed and adds genuine prime-time talent David Whitmore, a transfer from Georgia Tech. Post-Bimbo **Virginia Tech** returns nobody who averaged double figures last season.

THE ALL-METRO TEAM: **G**-Daron Chancellor (Southern Mississippi), **G**-LaBradford Smith (Lou-

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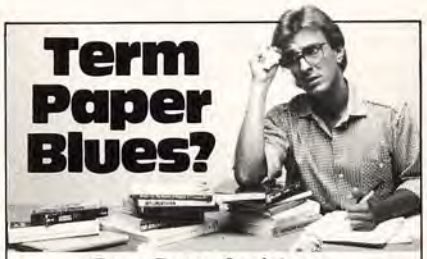

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THE BEST OF THE REST

9. BIG WEST—UNLV and conference co-champ New Mexico State return seven of 10 starters. Long Beach State (23-9) and perpetually tough Santa Barbara may have lost a tad more talent, but they also recruited exceptionally well.

10. WAC—The match-ups between 7-2 Australian stallion Luc Longley of New Mexico and 7-5 BYU freshman phenom Shawn Bradley should be among the most sizzling—and loftiest—in the nation. The WAC's interconference winning percentage (.678) was seventh best in the nation last year.

11. SUN BELT—Not so long ago an outstanding league, the Sun Belt has lost a measure of respect in recent years. Still, a glorious recruiting class—led by 6-8 all-world forward Kendrick Warren (VCU)—should start setting things straight.

12. ATLANTIC 10—Temple, fueled by sure-fire pro prospects Mark Macon and Donald Hodge, is a Top 25 entry. Massachusetts, the most pitiful team in the country a scant few years ago, is being rebuilt masterfully by John Calipari and may hoot with the Owls on even terms this year.

13. AMERICAN SOUTH—True, it was amassed against mediocre competition, but this league's .693 interconference winning percentage last year was remarkable—and good for sixth best in the nation.

14. OHIO VALLEY—Pushed by eye-popping pro prospect Popeye Jones, Murray State took Big Ten champ Michigan State into overtime in last year's tournament. And Middle Tennessee State and Eastern Kentucky shouldn't be too far behind this time around.

15. MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE—These guys are coming off a superb postseason—Xavier defeated Georgetown, and Dayton trimmed Illinois. But the league has lost too much talent to compete at the same level. What talent? Just NBA draftees Tyrone Hill, Derek Strong, Negele Knight, Anthony Bonner and Tony Smith.

isville), **C**-Daron Jenkins (Southern Mississippi), **F**-Clarence Weatherspoon (Southern Mississippi), **F**-Louis Banks (Cincinnati). **Player of the Year:** Clarence Weatherspoon (Southern Mississippi). **Rookie of the Year:** Douglas Edwards (Florida State). **Sleeper of the Year:** David Whitmore (Tulane).

8. BIG EIGHT

MAJOR LOSSES: Jackie Jones (6-7 F/C, Oklahoma), Skeeter Henry (6-6 PF, Oklahoma), Kevin Pritchard (6-3 PG, Kansas), Rick Calloway (6-6 SF, Kansas), Steve Henson (6-3 PG, Kansas State), Travis Ford (6-3 PG, Missouri).

MAJOR ADDITIONS: Brent Price (6-3 PG, Oklahoma), Jeff Webster (6-8 PF, Oklahoma), Jevon Crudup (6-8 PF, Missouri), David Johanning (6-10 C, Kansas), Donnell Bivens (6-7 PF, Iowa State), Darryl King (6-9 C, Kansas State), Jose Ramos (6-2 PG, Nebraska).

PREDICTED FINISH:

1. OKLAHOMA STATE
2. KANSAS
3. OKLAHOMA
4. MISSOURI
5. COLORADO
6. KANSAS STATE
7. IOWA STATE
8. NEBRASKA

After a too-heady regular season—with three different Big Eight teams occupying the No. 1 spot—came the unpleasant brush with reality: Not one of the allegedly premier teams could crash the Sweet Sixteen party. The post-debacle Big Eight starts conference play with four of the outstanding big men in the country and a key transfer guard in Brent Price. But don't look for a Top 20 team.

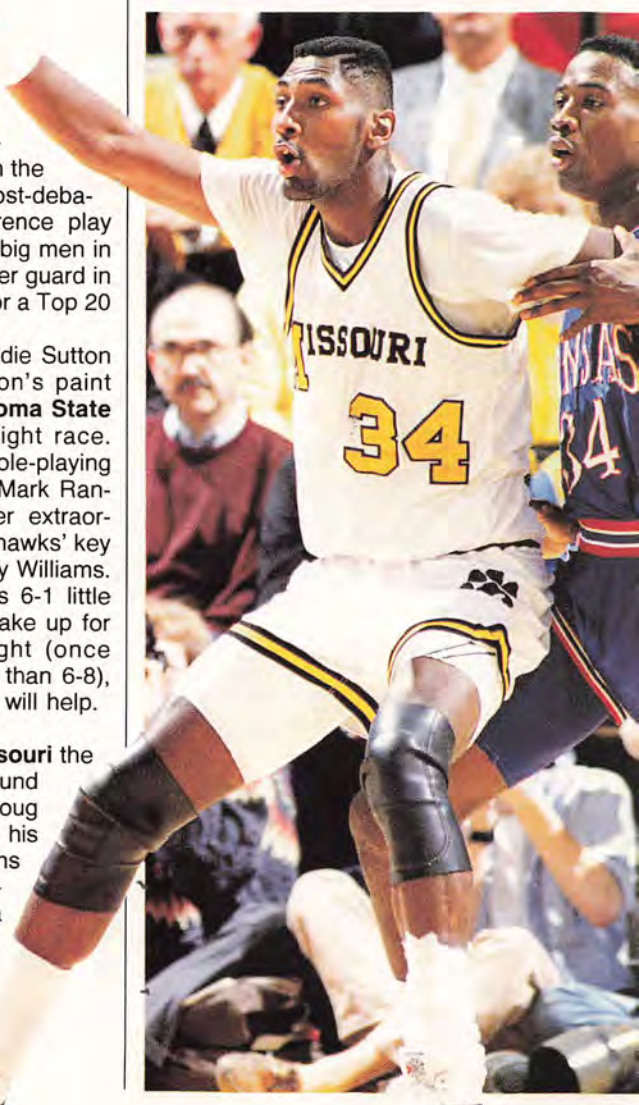
The addition of coach Eddie Sutton to supervise Byron Houston's paint presence should put **Oklahoma State** over the top in an extra-tight race. While **Kansas**, the ultimate role-playing team, is led by underrated Mark Randall and three-point shooter extraordinaire Terry Brown, the Jayhawks' key role player will be coach Roy Williams. At **Oklahoma**, Price, Mark's 6-1 little brother, won't be able to make up for the Sooners' lack of height (once again, there's nobody taller than 6-8), but his genetic court genius will help.

The NCAA won't give **Missouri** the chance to gag in the first round again, so brilliant big man Doug Smith must somehow keep his spirits high. **Iowa State** owns a mystery man (6-9, 265-pound Victor Alexander), a potential star guard (6-3 Justus Thigpen) and a coach (Johnny Orr) who calls everybody "coach." Guard Jean Derouillere, an NBA prospect, might thrive and score even more under new **Kansas State** coach Dana Altman's up-tempo game.

Colorado? Well, gosh darn, how do you go 12-18 with the league's best inside-outside combo in 6-10 Shaun Vandiver (a major NBA center of the future) and 20-point scorer Stevie Wise? By not having anything else, that's how. Which still may be more than **Nebraska** has, though 7-2 Rich King might be another NBA prospect.★

THE ALL-BIG EIGHT TEAM: G-Jean Derouillere (Kansas State), **G**-Stevie Wise (Colorado), **C**-Shaun Vandiver (Colorado), **F**-Byron Houston (Oklahoma State), **F**-Doug Smith (Missouri). **Player of the Year:** Shaun Vandiver (Colorado). **Rookie of the Year:** Brent Price (Oklahoma). **Sleeper of the Year:** Brent Price (Oklahoma). ★

Missouri's Doug Smith is one prime-timer who won't get a shot at the NCAA's this season, but the Big Eight should send Oklahoma State, Kansas and Oklahoma to the party.



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

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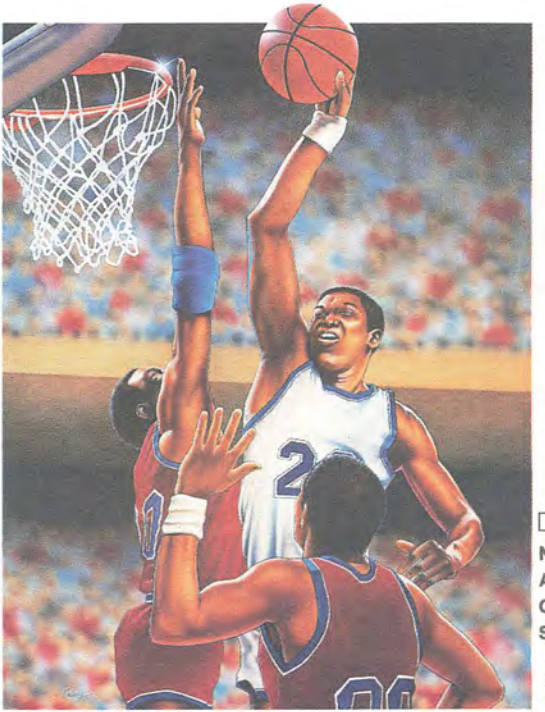

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